



GS Test 1 - History, Art & Culture

GS Test 1 - History, Art & Culture (Date : 21-04-2024)

Question 1:

Regarding Ajanta Caves in India, consider the following statements:

1. Ajanta is a series of rock-cut caves in the Sahyadri ranges on Wardha River.
2. The Ajanta caves were built under the patronage of the Vakataka kings.
3. A notable characteristic is the absence of blue color in the paintings of Ajanta Caves.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **Ajanta** is a series of rock-cut caves in the **Sahyadri** ranges on the **Waghora River** near **Aurangabad** in **Maharashtra**. There are a total of 29 caves there of which 25 were used as Viharas or residential caves while were used as Chaitya or prayer halls. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **Ajanta caves** were inscribed by the Buddhist monks, under the patronage of the **Vakataka** kings. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The figures in these caves were made using fresco painting techniques and demonstrate considerable naturalism. The colors were obtained from local vegetation and minerals. The outlines of the paintings were done in red colour and then the inside was painted. One of the striking features is the absence of blue colour in the paintings. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 2:

Consider the following statements regarding inscriptions:

1. Sohgaura Copper Plate, a pre Ashokan Brahmi script mentions famine relief efforts.
2. Hathigumpha Cave Inscription is the main source of information about Kalinga ruler Kharavela.
3. Aihole inscription was written by the court poet of Pulakeshi of Odisha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 1, 2 and 3
4. 3 only

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

Important Ancient Inscriptions and Edicts:

- **Sohgaura Copper Plate:** The earliest known copper-plate, known as the Sohgaura copper-plate, is a **Mauryan record that mentions famine relief efforts**. It is one of the very few pre-Ashoka Brahmi inscriptions in India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Hathigumpha Inscription:** The Hathigumpha Inscription **also known as Elephant Cave Inscription** from Udayagiri Khandagiri Caves in Odisha, were inscribed by King Kharavela during 2nd century BCE. **It is the main source of information about Kalinga ruler Kharavela. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Aihole Inscription:** Aihole in Karnataka was the first capital of Chalukyas. The inscription is written in Sanskrit, and it is in Kannada script. There is a mention about the defeat of Harshavardhana by Pulakeshin II and the victory of Chalukyas over Pallavas. It also mentions the shifting of the capital from Aihole to Badami. **They were written by Ravikirti, the court poet of Pulakeshi II who reigned from 610 to 642 CE. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 3:

Consider the following pairs :

Important Sites	Major Archaeological findings
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1. Dholavira	Dockyard
2. Lothal	Dams
3. Chanhudaro	City without a citadel

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

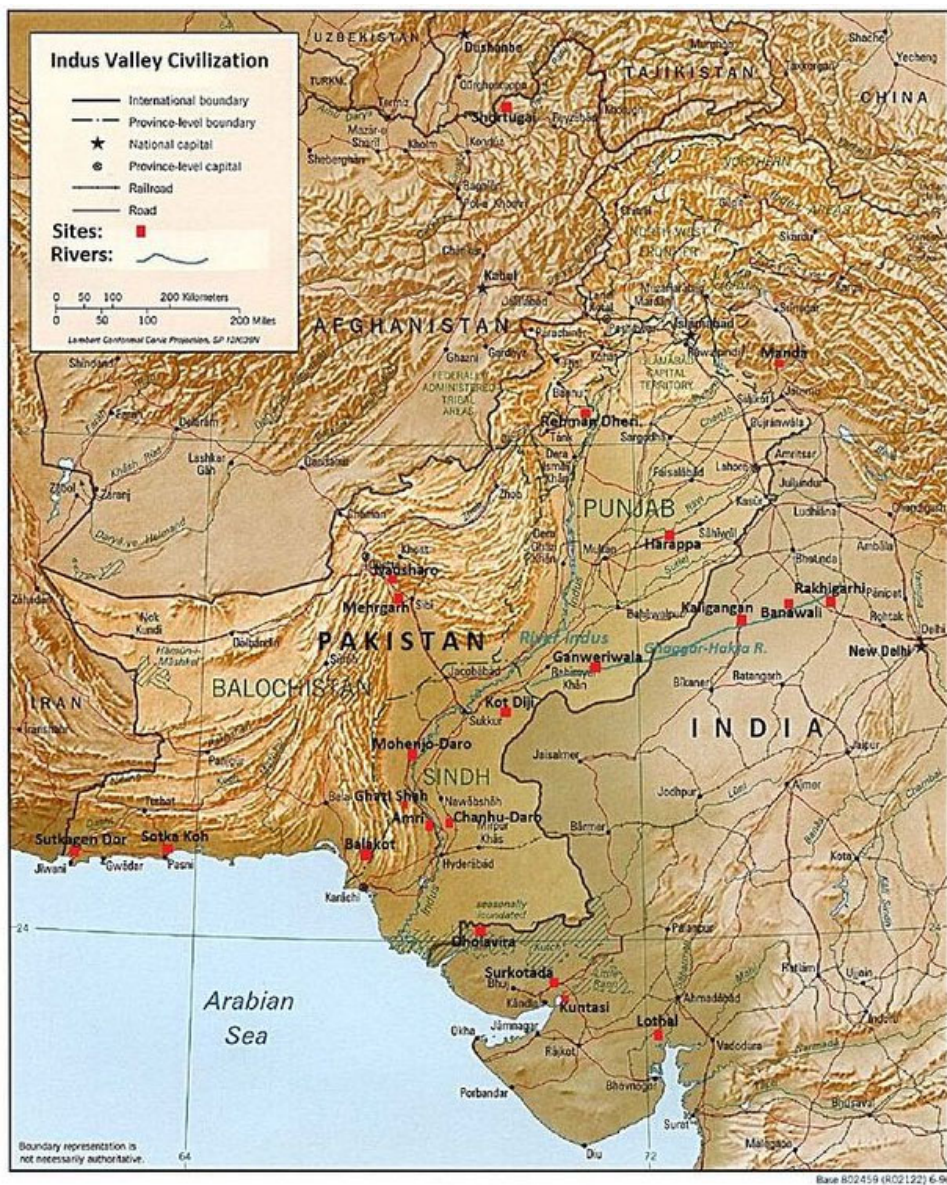
1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. All three pairs
4. None of the pairs

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Dholavira** in Gujarat – giant water reservoir, unique water harnessing system, stadium, **dams, and embankments**, inscription comprising 10 large-sized signs like an advertisement board. It is the latest IVC city to be discovered. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Lothal** in Gujarat –an important site for naval trade, had a **dockyard**, rice husk, fire altars, painted jar, modern day chess, terracotta figures of horse and ship, instruments for measuring 45, 90 and 180-degree angles, practice of burial of cremated remains. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Chanhudaro (Lancashire of India)** is located in present-day Pakistan –the **only Indus city without a citadel**. Bead making factory and use of lipsticks has been found.

Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.



Question 4:

Consider the following pairs:

Sikhara Types	Characteristics
1. Rekha-prasad	Broader base and shorter in height
2. Phamsana	Square at the base and the walls curve inward
3. Valabhi	Roof rising into vaulted chambers

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair

2. Only two pairs
3. All three pairs
4. None of the pairs

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

In the Nagara style of Temple Architecture Shikharas were generally of three types:

- **Latina or Rekha-prasad:** They were **square at the base** and the **walls curved inward** to a point on the top. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
 - **Phamsana:** They had a **broader base** and were **shorter in height** than the Latina ones. They slope upwards in a straight line. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
 - **Valabhi:** They had a rectangular base with the roof rising into vaulted chambers. They were also called wagon-vaulted roofs. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
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Question 5:

These paintings located in the Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh; these mural paintings were executed on Veerabhadra temple walls in 16th Century. Made during the Vijaynagara period, they follow a religious theme, based on Ramayana, Mahabharata and incarnations of Vishnu. The paintings show a complete absence of primary colours, especially blue. They depict a decline in painting in terms of quality. The forms, figures and details of their costumes are outlined with black colour.

Which of the following painting styles have such features?

1. Ravan Chhaya Rock Shelter
2. Lepakshi Paintings
3. Bagh cave paintings
4. Kerala Mural

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **Lepakshi Paintings** Located in the Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, these mural paintings were executed on Veerabhadra temple walls at Lepakshi in 16th Century.
 - Made during the Vijaynagara period, they follow a religious theme, based on Ramayana, Mahabharata and incarnations of Vishnu. The paintings **show a complete absence of primary colours**, especially blue. They depict a decline in painting in terms of quality. The forms, figures and details of their costumes are outlined with black colour.
 - **Hence, option B is correct.**
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Question 6:

Regarding sculpture art in ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. Gandhara School of Art was developed on the banks of the Krishna River.
2. Mathura School was influenced by the stories and imageries of all three religions-Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism.
3. Amaravati School was developed on the western frontiers of Punjab.

How many of the above statements are **not** correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The Gandhara School of Art developed in the western frontiers of Punjab, near modern-day Peshawar and Afghanistan. The Greek invaders brought with them the traditions of the Greek and Roman sculptors, which influenced the local traditions of the region. Thus, Gandhara School also came to be known as the Greco-Indian School of Art. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - The Mathura School flourished on the banks of the river Yamuna in the period between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD. The sculptures of the Mathura School were influenced by the stories and imageries of all three religions of the time - Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - In the Southern parts of India, the Amaravati School developed on the banks of the Krishna River, under the patronage of the Satvahana rulers. While the other two schools focused on single images, Amaravati School put more emphasis on the use of dynamic images or narrative art. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
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Question 7:

With reference to Parthenon Sculptures, consider the following statements:

1. The Parthenon Sculptures housed at the Greece Museum are a collection of over 30 ancient stone sculptures.
2. These artifacts are significant remnants of Athens' Golden Age.
3. These artifacts are dedicated to the goddess Artemis.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

▪ **About Parthenon Sculptures :**

- The **Parthenon Sculptures** housed at the **British Museum** are a collection of over **30 ancient stone sculptures from Greece**, dating back more than 2,000 years. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Originally adorning the walls and grounds of the Parthenon temple on the Acropolis hill in Athens, these artifacts are significant remnants of **Athens' Golden Age**, with the temple's construction completed in 432 BC.
- **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Dedicated to the **goddess Athena**, the Parthenon is a symbol of cultural and historical importance. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 8:

Which of the following is **NOT** an example of intangible cultural heritage according to UNESCO?

1. Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre of India

2. Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana of India
3. Taj Mahal, a mausoleum of India
4. Yoga, a physical, mental and spiritual practice of India

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Recently, the UNESCO, during its 18th session of the Intergovernmental Committee in **Botswana**, officially **added Gujarat's iconic Garba dance to its esteemed Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage(ICH) of Humanity.**

- Intangible cultural heritage refers to the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills, and associated instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces that communities, groups and individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage.
 - Taj Mahal is a **tangible cultural heritage**, as it is a building, historic place, monument, and artifact. **Hence, option C is correct.**
- Here's the list of **existing UNESCO's ICH in India:**

Existing Traditions of India Recognised by UNESCO			
1.	Tradition of Vedic chanting, 2008	8.	Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir, India, 2012
2.	Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana, 2008	9.	Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur, 2013
3.	Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre, 2008	10.	Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India ,2014
4.	Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India, 2009	11.	Yoga, 2016
5.	Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala, 2010	12.	Nowruz, 2016
6.	Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan, 2010	13.	Kumbh Mela, 2017
7.	Chhau dance, 2010	14.	Durga Puja in Kolkata, 2021
		15.	Garba Dance of Gujarat, 2023

Question 9:

With reference to Temple Architecture in South India, consider the following statements:

1. Temple architecture in South India began under the Pallava ruler Narasimhavarman.
2. The 7th century Pallava site was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984 by the name "Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram"

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Temple architecture in South India began under the Pallava ruler **Mahendravarman**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - The temples developed during the Pallava dynasty can be classified into four stages chronologically:
 - **Mahendra Group**: This was the **first stage** of Pallava temple architecture. Under him, the temples were known as **mandapas**, unlike the Nagara style in which the mandapas meant only the assembly hall.
 - **Narasimha Group**: This represented the **second stage** of the development of temple architecture in South India.
 - **Rajasimha Group**: Rajasimha led the **third stage** of temple development. Under him, the development of real structural temples started in place of rock-cut temples
 - **Nandivarman Group**: This was the **fourth stage** of temple development during the Pallava period. The temples built were smaller in size. The features were almost similar to the Dravidian style of temple architecture.
 - After the decline of the Pallava dynasty, temple architecture acquired a new style under the Chola kingdom, known as the **Dravidian** style of temple Architecture.
 - The ancient port city of **Mamallapuram** under **the Pallava dynasty** in Tamil Nadu, flourished with a number of marvelous architecture. This 7th-century Pallava site was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1984 by the name "**Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram**". Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
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Question 10:

Regarding the Hoysala Temples, consider the following statements:

1. The Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid, and Somanathapur in Karnataka have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage list.
2. Chennakeshava Temple was built by Hoysala King Vishnuvardhana to commemorate his victory over the Cholas.
3. Keshava Temple of Somanathapur is a beautiful Trikuta Temple dedicated to Lord Krishna in three forms-Janardhana, Keshava and Venugopala.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala, the famed **Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somanathapur in Karnataka** have been added to the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage list**. This inclusion marks the **42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in India** Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**
 - Recently, **Santiniketan**, which is a town located in the **Birbhum district of West Bengal**, was also included in **UNESCO's World Heritage List**.
- **Chennakeshava Temple in Belur:**
 - It was built by **Hoysala King Vishnuvardhana** to commemorate his victory over the **Cholas** in 1116 AD. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**
 - Beluru (also known earlier as Velapuri, Velur and Belapur in olden times) is situated on the banks of the Yagachi River and was one of the capitals of the Hoysala Empire.
- **Keshava Temple of Somanathapur:**
 - It is a beautiful Trikuta Temple dedicated to **Lord Krishna in three forms-Janardhana, Keshava and Venugopala**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct.**
 - The main Keshava idol is missing, and the Janardhana and Venugopala idols are damaged.

Question 11:

Regarding prehistoric paintings in India, consider the following statements:

1. The first set of prehistoric paintings was discovered in the Jogimara Caves of Chhattisgarh.
2. Common scenes depicted in the Upper Paleolithic Period are of group hunting.
3. Most of the paintings in the Chalcolithic period depict battle scenes.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two

3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

The pre-historic paintings were generally executed on rocks and these rock engravings were called Petroglyphs.

- The first set of pre-historic paintings were discovered in **Bhimbetka caves** in Madhya Pradesh. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

There are three major phases of pre-historic paintings:

- **Upper Paleolithic Period (40,000-10,000 BC):** The walls of the rock shelter caves were made of quartzite hence using minerals for pigments. **In this period**, white, dark red, and green were used to **depict large animals** like bison, elephants, rhinos, tigers, etc. **For the human figurines, red was used for hunters, and green mostly for dancers.**
- **Mesolithic Period (10,000-4000 BC):** This period mainly saw the use of red color. In comparison to the Upper Paleolithic Period, the size of the paintings became smaller during this period. One of the most common scenes depicted in these paintings is of **group hunting** and several other paintings depict grazing activity and riding scenes. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Chalcolithic Period:** This period saw an increase in the number of paintings using green and yellow colours. Most of the paintings seen **depict battle scenes. There are many paintings of men riding horses and elephants.** Some of them even **carry bows and arrows** which might indicate preparedness for skirmishes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 12:

Consider the following pairs :

Paintings	Location
1. Sittanavasal Cave Paintings	Odisha
2. Ravan Chhaya	Tamil Nadu
3. Lepakshi Temple Paintings	Kerala

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. All three pairs

4. None of the pairs

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- **Sittanavasal Cave (Arivar Koil) Paintings:** Dated from the 1st century BC to the 10th century AD, and located in **Tamil Nadu**, these famous rock-cut cave temples are known for their **paintings based on Jainism. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Ravan Chhaya Rock Shelter:** Located in the Keonjhar district of **Odisha**, these ancient fresco paintings on a rock shelter are in the shape of a half-opened umbrella. It is believed that this shelter acted like a royal hunting lodge. The most noticeable painting is that of a royal procession that dates back to the 7th century AD. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Lepakshi Temple Paintings:** Located in the Anantapur district of **Andhra Pradesh**, these mural paintings were executed on Veerabhadra temple walls at Lepakshi in the 16th century. Made during the Vijayanagara period, they follow a religious theme based on Ramayana, Mahabharata and incarnations of Vishnu. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Question 13:

Consider the following pairs regarding Regional Schools of Painting Art:

Regional Painting	Unique Features
1. Mewar School of Painting	Figure of Sahibdin and 'tamasha' paintings
2. Kishangarh School of Painting	Sensuality and Intelligence
3. Kangra School	Paintings of Bani Thani
4. Pahari Styles of Painting	Basholi School

How many pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

1. One pair only
2. Two pairs only
3. Three pairs only
4. All four pairs

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **Regional Schools of Art:** In medieval period sub- imperial Schools developed a space for them by developing their own styles. They remembered their Indian roots and a penchant for colourful paintings. The different schools and styles that developed in this period were:
- **Rajasthani Schools of Painting:**
 - **Mewar School of Painting:** It is dominated by the **extraordinary figure of Sahibdin** (painting focuses on Sahibdin's depiction of literary texts - the Rasikapriya, the Ramayana and the Bhagavata Purana). Later its paintings depicted the life at court in Mewar. The unique point of this period is the extraordinary **'tamasha' paintings** that show court ceremonial and city views in unprecedented detail. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
 - **Kishangarh School of Painting:** Paintings at Kishangarh is **associated with the most romantic legends - Sawant Singh and his beloved Bani Thani**, and of the intertwining of lives and myths, romance and bhakti. It is sometimes argued that the women in 'bani thani' is said to resemble the character of Radha. They also made many paintings on the devotional and amorous relations between Radha and Krishna. **Hence, pair 2 and 3 are not correctly matched.**
- **Pahari Styles of Painting:** This style of painting developed in the sub-himalayan states. Pahari paintings can be grouped into two groups: Jammu or Dogra School: Northern Series Basholi and **Kangra School: Southern Series**
 - **Basholi School:** The **paintings created in the Pahari School** in the 17th century were called the Basholi School. This was the early phase and expressive faces with a receding hairline and big eyes that are shaped like lotus petals characterize it. These paintings use a lot of primary colours. **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched.**

Question 14:

This School is famous for the special style of decorative paintings. The Maratha rulers patronized them during the 18th century. These paintings are unique as they are mostly created on glass and board instead of cloth and vellum preferred in north India. They are unique because of the use of brilliant colour patterns and the liberal use of gold leaf. They used many types of gemstones and cut glasses for embellishments to create larger than life images.

Which of the following folk paintings best describes the characteristics of folk art given above?

1. Pattachitra
2. Patua Art
3. Tanjore Paintings
4. Phad Painting

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Pattachitra:** A traditional painting of Odisha. The base of the painting is treated cloth while the colours used comes from natural sources. **No pencil or charcoal is used, rather brush is used to draw the outlines in red or yellow** after which the colours are filled. The themes of these paintings are inspired from Jagannath and Vaishnava cult.
- **Patua Art:** The art of Bengal. These paintings are done on pats or scrolls and for generations, the scroll painters or patuas have been going to different villages to sing their stories in lieu of food or money. Traditionally these were painted on cloth and told religious stories; today they used to comment on political and social issues.
- **Tanjore Paintings:** The Thanjavur or Tanjore School is famous for the special style of decorative paintings. The Maratha rulers patronized them during the 18th century. These paintings are unique as they are mostly created on glass and board instead of cloth and vellum preferred in north India.
 - They are unique because of the use of brilliant colour patterns and the liberal use of gold leaf. They used many types of gemstones and cut glasses for embellishments to create larger than life images. Most of the paintings depicted smiling Krishna in various poses and various major events in his life.
 - These paintings reached their zenith under the patronage of Sarfoji Maharaj who was a great patron of the arts. **Hence, option C is correct.**
- **Phad Painting:** It is predominantly found in Rajasthan and is a scroll-type art. Painted with vegetable colours on a long piece of cloth called phad. The subjects have large eyes and round faces.

Question 15:

Consider the following:

1. Sujni
2. Kashidakari
3. Kondapalli Bommalu

Which of the given above is/are embroidery techniques?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

Embroidery is a decorative art form that involves stitching designs or patterns onto fabric using a needle and thread

- **Kashidakari:** This is the most famous **embroidery** of the **Kashmir** valley. The term 'kashidakari' literally means 'needle work'. It uses simple chain stitches involving floral patterns. **Hence, option 1 is correct.**
- **Sujni:** The **Sujani embroidery work of Bihar**, is a textile expressive art product, given protection under the GI registration act. The base fabric used in this work is generally red or white. Outlines of the main motif are highlighted with a thick chain stitch. **Hence, option 2 is correct.**
- **Kondapalli Bommalu Toys:** Kondapalli Toys are **toys** made of wood in Kondapalli of Krishna district, a nearby Vijayawada in the Indian state of **Andhra Pradesh**. It is made using a soft wood. The wooden pieces are heated to make it moisture-free. Subsequently, different parts of the toy are carved separately and are then glued together. **Hence, option 3 is not correct.**

Question 16:

Consider the following statements regarding classical dance forms:

1. Jatiswaram, Shabdham are the elements in the Bharatnatyam or fire dance.
2. Manduk shabdham and Tarangam are related to the Kuchipudi dance.
3. Batu nritya, Pallavi and Tharijham are the elements of Odissi dance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

Indian Classical Dance Forms:

- Presently, Sangeet Natak Akademi, there exists eight classical dance forms in India.

Bharatnatyam:

- The origins of this dance form can be traced back to 'Sadir' – the solo dance performance of the temple dancers or 'devadasis' in Tamil Nadu, hence it was also referred to as 'Dashiattam'.
- In the early nineteenth century, four dance teachers of Thanjavur defined the elements of a Bharatnatyam recital. They are:

- **Jatiswaram** - It is the Nritta component and is devoid of expressions, it includes the different poses and movements.
- **Shabdam** - It is the dramatic element with expressed words, which includes the abhinaya in the song. It is generally in praise of the glory of God.
- **Bharatnatyam is often referred to as the 'fire dance'**, as it is the manifestation of fire in the human body. Most of the movements in Bharatnatyam resemble to that of a dancing flame. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Kuchipudi:

- The dance form gained prominence under the patronage of the Vijayanagar and Golconda rulers.
- Both Lasya and Tandava elements are important in the Kuchipudi dance form. Apart from group performances, there are some popular solo elements in Kuchipudi as well. Some of them are:
 - **Manduk shabdam** - Tells the story of a frog.
 - **Tarangam** - The dancer performs with his/her feet on the edges of a brass plate and balancing a pot of water on the head or a set of diyas.
 - **Jala Chitra Nrityam** - In this item, the dancer draws pictures on the floor with his or her toes while dancing. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Odissi: The caves of Udayagiri-Khandagiri provide some of the earliest examples of Odissi dance. The elements of Odissi dance form include:

- **Mangalacharan** or the beginning where a flower is offered to mother earth.
- **Batu nritya** comprising of the dance. It has the **Tribhanga** and the **Chowk** postures.
- **Pallavi** which includes the facial expressions and the representation of the song.
- **Tharijham** consisting of pure dance before the conclusion. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 17:

Jnaneshvar, Namdev, Eknath, and Tukaram were associated with of following sects of Vaishnavism?

1. Varkari Panth
2. Ramanandi Sampradaya
3. Brahma Sampradaya
4. Nimbarka Sampradaya

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Varkari Panth or Varkari Sampradaya:**
 - The followers in this community are devotees of Lord Vishnu, in his manifestation as Vithoba and the worship is centered on Vithoba's temple at Pandharpur in Maharashtra.

The sect has a strict avoidance towards alcohol and tobacco.

- Their annual pilgrimage Vari undertakes interesting events. In Vari, the Varkaris carry the padukas of the saints in palkhis from Samadhi to Pandharpur.
- Events Ringan and Dhava are held during pilgrimage. Under Ringan, a sacred horse runs through the rows of pilgrims, who try catching the dust particles kicked off and smear their head with the same.
- Prominent figures under this sect include **Jnaneshvar (1275-1296), Namdev (1270-1350), Eknath (1533-1599), and Tukaram (1598- 1650)**. Hence, option A is correct.

▪ **Ramanandi Sampradaya:**

- They adhere to the teachings of the Advaita scholar Ramananda. This is the largest monastic group within Hinduism in Asia
- Its two sub-groups are Tyagi and Naga.

▪ **Brahma Sampradaya:**

- It is associated with Lord Vishnu, ParaBrahma or Universal Creator (not to be confused with the Brahma deity).
- **The founder was Madhvacharya.** Gaudiya Vaishnavism promoted by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is associated with Brahma Sampradaya. **The ISKCON belongs to this sampradaya.**

▪ **Nimbarka Sampradaya:**

- Also known as the Hamsa Sampradaya and Kumara Sampradāya, the followers worship Radha and Krishna deities.

Question 18:

Consider the following statements regarding “Mimamsa School of Philosophy:

1. This school was founded by Jaimini.
2. This school emphasizes the art of reasoning, interpretation and application.
3. This school accepted salvation only through performing rituals and understanding the justification and reasoning behind Vedic rituals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

Mimamsa:

- The word 'Mimamsa' literally **means the art of reasoning, interpretation and application**. This school focuses on the analysis of the texts of Samhita and Brahmana that are portions of the Vedas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - They argue that the Vedas contain the eternal truth and they are the repositories of all knowledge. If one has to attain religious merit, acquire heaven and salvation, they will have to fulfill all the duties which are prescribed by the Vedas.
- The texts that describe the **Mimamsa philosophy in detail, are the Sutras of Jaimini**, which were supposedly composed in the 3rd century BCE. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- They argue that salvation is possible through performing rituals, but it is also necessary to understand the justification and reasoning behind Vedic rituals. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
 - It was necessary to understand this reasoning if one wanted to perform the rituals perfectly, which will allow them to attain salvation.

Question 19:

Regarding the Vedanta School of Philosophy, consider the following statements:

1. Brahmasutra formed the basis of this philosophy.
2. Shankaracharya considers devotion as the path to attain salvation.
3. Ramanujan considers Knowledge to be the main means of attaining salvation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- The oldest text that formed the basis of **Vedanta** philosophy was Brahmasutra of **Badrayana** which was written and compiled in the 2nd century BCE. The philosophy propounds that Brahma is the reality of life and everything else is unreal or Maya. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Shankaracharya** wrote commentaries on the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita. His changes led to the development of **Advaita Vedanta**. Another major philosopher of this school was Ramanujan who wrote in the 12th century AD. He considers brahma to be without any attributes. **He considers Knowledge or jnana/gyan to be the main means of attaining salvation. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Ramanuja's** philosophical foundation was qualified monism and is called **Vishishtadvaita** in the

Hindu tradition. He considers Brahma to possess certain attributes. **He considers loving the faith and practicing devotion as the path to attain salvation. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 20:

Consider the following statements:

1. Sariputrprakarana is considered the first example of classical Sanskrit drama written by Sudraka.
2. Ashvaghosha was the first to introduce the essence of conflict in his play Mricchakatika.
3. Koothiyattam (Koodiyattam) is India's oldest continuing form of theatre and living tradition that has survived since 10th century AD in Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Sariputrprakarana by Ashvaghosha**, an eminent philosopher, is considered the **first example of classical Sanskrit drama**. It was a nine-act play. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Sudraka was the first to introduce the essence of conflict in his play Mricchakatika**. Apart from a hero and a heroine, this play features an antagonist for the first time. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Koothiyattam (Koodiyattam) is India's oldest continuing form of theatre** and living tradition that has survived since 10th century AD in Kerala.
 - It completely adheres to the rules laid down in Natya Shastra and is the traditional privilege of the Chakyar and Nambiar castes of Kerala. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 21:

It is the love story describes geographical phenomenon and features of north India ranging from

mountains of Himalayas, plateau, rifts and plains of the region along with forest and other vegetation. It was one of the great epics of the later Gupta period.

Which of the following books has been described above?

1. Kumara Sambhava
2. Raghuvamsa
3. Meghaduta
4. Ritusamhara

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Sanskrit Poetry:** This genre is called Kavya or poetry. Unlike the drama section where the story is the main focus of the text, poetry concentrates more on the form, style, figure of speech, etc. **One of the greatest Sanskrit poets is Kalidasa who wrote** Kumara Sambhava (the birth of Kumar), and Raghuvamsa (the dynasty of the Raghus). He also wrote **two smaller epics called Meghaduta (the cloud messenger)** and Ritusamhara (medley of seasons). **Hence, option C is correct.**
- Meghaduta, a Sanskrit poem by Kalidasa, tells the story of a mystical being banished to earth who **sends a message to his wife through a passing cloud, describing the beauty of the places it will pass.** The poem is admired for its lyrical beauty, nature descriptions, and expression of human emotions.

Question 22:

With reference to Adi Shankaracharya, consider the following statements:

1. He propounded the doctrine of Vishishtadvaita.
2. Statue of equality is related to Adi Shankaracharya.
3. He established four Mathas in the four corners of India at Sringeri, Puri, Dwaraka and Badrinath for propagation of Sanathana Dharma.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two

3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

▪ **Adi Shankaracharya:**

- Adi Shankaracharya **propounded the Doctrine of Advaita (Monism)**. According to Advaita Vedantins, the Upanishads reveal a fundamental principle of nonduality termed 'brahman', which is the reality of all things. Advaitins understand brahman as transcending individuality and empirical plurality. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Adi Shankaracharya **established four Mathas in the four corners of India** at Sringeri, Puri, Dwaraka and Badrinath- for propagation of Sanathana Dharma. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Recently, Prime Minister of **India inaugurated the Statue of Equality on the outskirts of Hyderabad** to commemorate the 11th-century Bhakti saint Sri Ramanujacharya on his 1,000th birth anniversary. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Question 23:

Consider the following pairs:

Book	Author
1. Sulvasutra	Baudhayana
2. Ganitakaumudi	Bhramhagupta
3. Ganit Sara Sangraha	Mahaviracharya
4. Shiddhanta Shiromani	Bhaskaracharya

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. Only three pairs
4. All Four Pairs

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The earliest book on mathematics was **Sulvasutra written by Baudhayana** in the 6th century BC. There is a **mention of 'Pi' and even some concepts very similar to Pythagoras theorem** in the Sulvasutra. Pi is presently used to calculate the area and circumference of the circle. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- In the Medieval period, **Narayan Pandit produced works of mathematics** which include **Ganitakaumudi and Bijaganitavatamsa**. Nilakantha Somasutvan wrote Tantrasamgraha, which contains the rules of trigonometric functions. Nilakanatha Jyotirvida compiled Tajik, dealing with a large number of Persian technical terms. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- In the 9th century AD, **Mahaviracharya wrote Ganit Sara Sangraha which is the first textbook on arithmetic in present-day form.** In his book, he described in detail the current method of finding the Lowest common multiple. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Bhaskaracharya** was one of the leading mathematicians in the 12th century AD. His book **Siddhanta Shiromani** is divided into four sections:
 - **Lilavati** (dealing with Arithmetic)
 - **Beejganita** (dealing with Algebra)
 - **Goladhyaya** (about spheres)
 - **Grahaganita** (mathematics of planets.) **Hence, pair 4 is correctly matched**

Question 24:

With reference to the 'Charak Samhita', consider the following statements:

1. Charak Samhita mainly deals with the use of plants and herbs for medicinal purposes.
2. It has extensive notes on digestion, metabolism and the immune system written.
3. Charaka in his book has put more emphasis on prevention rather than cure and Genetics does not find a mention in this book.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Charak Samhita mainly deals with use of plants and herbs for medicinal purposes.** In a way, it mainly deals with Ayurveda as a science having the following eight components:
 - Kaya Chikitsa (General Medicine)
 - Kaumara-Bhrtya (Paediatrics)
 - Shalya Chikitsa (Surgery)
 - Salakya Tantra (Ophthalmology/ENT)
 - Buta Vidya (Demonology/Psychiatry)
 - Agada Tantra (Toxicology)
 - Rasayana Tantra (Elixirs)
 - Vajikarana Tantra (Aphrodisiacs). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - In Charak Samhita, **extensive note on digestion, metabolism and immune system is written.** Charaka emphasises that the functioning of a human body depends on **three Doshas: 1. Bile, 2. Phlegm and 3. Wind.** **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - These doshas are produced with the help of blood, flesh and marrow and the body becomes sick due to an imbalance between these three doshas.
 - Drugs can be used to restore this balance. **Charaka in his book has put more emphasis on prevention rather than cure. Genetics also finds a mention in Charaka Samhita. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
-

Question 25:

Regarding Aryabhata and his works, consider the following statements:

1. Aryabhata in around 499 AD wrote Aryabhattiya in which the concepts of astronomy were explicitly mentioned.
2. The method of denoting big decimal numbers by alphabets, Number theory, geometry, trigonometry and Bijaganita were explained by him.
3. Aryabhata in his book stated that the earth is round and rotates on its own axis.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Aryabhata in around 499 AD wrote Aryabhattiya in which the concepts of mathematics as well as astronomy were explicitly mentioned. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The book had four sections: **Method of denoting big decimal numbers by alphabet, Number**

theory, geometry, trigonometry and Bijaganita on Astronomy. Astronomy was also called khagol shastra in those days. Khagol was the famous astronomical laboratory in Nalanda where Aryabhata studied. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Aryabhata in his book stated that the earth is round and rotates on its own axis.** He formulated the area of a triangle and discovered algebra. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 26:

Consider the following pairs regarding National Ayush Mission:

1. Ayurvedya: - Promotion of healthy lifestyle through Ayush for school children
2. Supraja: - Ayush based geriatric programme
3. Vayomitra: - Ayush for Maternal & Neonatal intervention

How many of the given pairs are correct ?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

Recently, the Regional Review meeting of the **National Ayush Mission (NAM)** was ceremonially inaugurated.

- At the meeting, following **robust programmes of AYUSH were highlighted:**
 - **Ayurvedya:** Promotion of healthy lifestyle through Ayush **for school children. Hence pair 1 is correct.**
 - **Supraja:** Ayush for **Maternal & Neonatal intervention. Hence pair 2 is not correct.**
 - **Vayomitra:** Ayush based **geriatric programme;** prevention and management of Osteoarthritis and other Musculoskeletal disorders. **Hence pair 3 is not correct.**
- NAM is being implemented with the vision and objectives to provide Ayush health care services throughout the country by strengthening and improving facilities, to provide informed choice to the needy public.
 - Under NAM, the Ministry of Ayush is working on operationalisation of 12,500 **Ayush Health and Wellness Centres (AHWCs)** through support of State/UT Governments by **2023-24.**

Question 27:

Consider the following pairs:

Bodhisattva	Representation
1. Vajrapani	Stimulator of Understanding
2. Manjushri	Future Buddha
3. Maiteriya	Foe of Sin and Evil

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. All three pairs
4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

Bodhisattvas are enlightened beings who have put off entering paradise in order to help others attain enlightenment. **There are many different Bodhisattvas.**

- **Vajrapani:** Vajrapani is one of the earliest-appearing bodhisattvas in Mahayana Buddhism. Like Indira, he holds a thunderbolt as a **foe of sin and evil. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Manjushri (Stimulator of Understanding):** Manjushri is a bodhisattva associated with transcendent wisdom in Mahayana Buddhism. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Maitreya:** The Future Buddha. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- **Avlokiteswara (Kind Hearted):** Also known as Padmapani.
- **Kshitigrihya:** Guardian of Prugatories.
- **Amitabha:** Buddha of Heaven.

Question 28:

With reference to the teachings of Jainism, consider the following statements:

1. All our judgments are necessarily relative, conditional, and limited.
2. Right knowledge, Right Faith, and Right Action are three jewels of Jainism.
3. Jainism doesn't recognize the existence of God.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- According to the **Syadvada (The theory of Perhaps/Maybe), all our judgments are relative, conditional, and limited.** According to Sayadwad, seven modes of prediction are available. Absolute affirmation and absolute negation both are wrong. All judgments are conditional. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Jainism principally aims at the attainment of freedom from worldly bonds. No rituals is necessary for such liberation. It can be obtained through **the Right knowledge, Right Faith and Right Action.** These three are considered to be **the Three Jewels or Triratna** of Jainism. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - **Jainsim recognised the existence of the gods but placed them lower than the Jina.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
-

Question 29:

Consider the following statements:

1. Concept of trinity of Gods in Hinduism originated in Gupta period.
2. Gupta period saw emergence of large number of untouchables known as Chandals.
3. First evidence of Sati was found in Eran inscription of Gupta era.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2, and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The concept of three gods connected with life, death and destruction united together as "Trinity" or "Trayi" had first materialised during the Gupta Period. According to neo-Hinduism, the three gods Brahma-Vishnu-Maheswar were united in the trinity concept or Trayi. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Chandala appeared in society as early as the fifth century BC. By the 5th century AD their number had become so enormous and their disabilities so glaring that it attracted the attention of the Chinese pilgrim Fa-hien. He informs us that the Chandalas lived outside the village and dealt in meat and flesh. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Eran inscription of the Gupta era is the first evidence of Sati in India, a practice in which a widow would immolate herself on her husband's funeral pyre. This practice became more prevalent in later centuries. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 30:

Regarding Kabir Das, consider the following statements:

1. He was the disciple of the Madhvacharya.
2. He was a Saguna Saint.
3. His works are compiled in the famous book "Bijak".

How many of the above statements are **not** correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **About Kabir Das (1440-1510 AD):**
 - He was the disciple of the Bhakti movement, Ramananda. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- He was a Nirguna saint within the Bhakti movement and openly criticized the orthodox ideas of major religions like Hinduism and Islam. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - His poems are called "Banis" (utterances) or 'Dohe'. His works are compiled in the famous book "Bijak". **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
-

Question 31:

Regarding the medieval history of India, the term '**Fana**' refers to:

1. The spiritual merger of devotees with Allah
2. Martial death
3. Perfect human
4. Charity

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

"Fana" is a term in Sufism, a mystical Islamic belief system, referring to the spiritual concept of a devotee achieving a state of complete and selfless absorption or merger with Allah, the Supreme Being. **Hence, option A is correct.**

Question 32:

Consider the following statements:

1. St. Thomas came to India during the reign of the Indo-Parthian king Gondophernes.
2. Gondophernes was a king in the areas of Arachosia, Kabul, and Gandhara, which are present-day Afghanistan and Pakistan.
3. St. Thomas is credited with introducing Christianity to India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only

2. 2 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2, and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- St. Thomas came to India during the reign of the Indo-Parthian king Gondophernes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Gondophernes was a king in the areas of Arachosia, Kabul, and Gandhara, which are present-day Afghanistan and Pakistan. He is known from coins and inscriptions, and is sometimes identified with the Guduvhara or Gondophares mentioned in early Christian writings. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The followers of Jesus Christ started spreading Christianity to different parts of the world. One of the twelve followers of Jesus, St Thomas travelled to India and brought Christianity to this land. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 33:

Regarding Hinayana Buddhism, consider the following statements:

1. It means the greater vehicle.
2. They believe in individual salvation and try to attain it through self-discipline.
3. Sthaviravada is one of the sub-sects of Hinayana.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

About Hinayana Buddhism :

- **It means the lesser vehicle. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The school includes the followers of the original preaching of the Buddha. It is more of an orthodox school.
- They did **not believe in idol or image worship of Buddha.**
- They **believe in individual salvation** and try to attain individual salvation through self-discipline and meditation. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The ultimate aim of Hinayana is thus nirvana.
- One of the sub-sects of Hinayana is **Sthaviravada** or **Theravada**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The Hinayana scholars used the Pali language to interact with the masses.
- Emperor Ashoka patronized the Hinayana sect as the Mahayana school came into being much later.
- Hinayana school in its original form is almost non-existent in the present age.

Question 34:

Regarding Jainism, consider the following statements:

1. Mahavira was the founder of Jainism.
2. It does not believe in the existence of the soul.
3. Sthanakavasi and Murtipujaka are subjects of Digambra School under Jainism.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

Jainism does not have a single founder, instead of that the truth comes to the world in difficult and different times by a teacher who shows the way or a Tirthankara.

- There were **23 Tirthankaras** or great-learned men in the Jain religion before Mahavira. It is commonly mistaken that Mahavira was the founder of Jainism, instead, he was the last and 24th Tirthankara. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Jainism, like Buddhism, rejects the authority of Vedas. **However, unlike Buddhism, it believes**

in the existence of the soul (atman). Soul is the core and the fundamental focus of the Jain philosophy. It is the soul that experiences existence and gains knowledge, not mind nor body as both are believed to be a heap of matter. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- Jainism has two major ancient sub-traditions:
 - **Digambaras** [Sub-sects include Mula Sangh (original community) and Terapanthi, Taranpathi, and Bispanthi (these three are modern communities)].
 - **Svetambaras** (Sub-sects include **Sthanakavasi** and **Murtipujaka**). **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 35:

Consider the following pairs:

Literature	Author
1. Mudra Rakshasa	Sudraka
2. Mricchakatika	Vishakhdutta
3. Malavikagnimitra	Kalidasa

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. All three pairs
4. None of the pairs

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Mudra Rakshasa:** It is a political drama and narrates the ascent of King Chandragupta Maurya to power in India. **It was written by Vishakhdutta. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Mricchakatika:** it depicts the Love affair of young Brahmin Charudatta with a wealthy courtesan. **It was written by Sudraka. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Malavikagnimitra:** It is The love story of Malavika a maiden of Queen and Agnimitra the son of Pushyamitra Shunga. **It was written by Kalidasa. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Question 36:

Consider the following pairs:

Religious Sects	Founder
1. Lingayatism	Basavanna
2. Nathpanth	Gorakhnathq
3. Ajivikas	Makkhali Gosala

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. All three pairs
4. None of the pairs

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Lingayatism:** It is also known as **Veershaivism**, it is a distinct Shaivite tradition that believes in monotheism through worship centred on **Lord Shiva** in the form of linga. It **rejects the authority of the Vedas** and the **caste system**. The tradition was established in the 12th century AD by Basavanna. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Nathpanthi:** Also known as **Siddha Siddhanta**, they adhere to the **teachings of Gorakhnath and Matsyendranath** and worship **Adinath**, a form of Shiva. They use the technique of Hatha Yoga to transform one's body into a state of awakened self's identity with absolute reality. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Ajivikas:** The school was **founded by Makkhali Gosala** in 5th century BC. The school revolves around the **Niyati (Fate)** doctrine of absolute determinism. It believes that there is no free will and that whatever has happened, is happening, or will happen is entirely pre-ordained or pre-decided and is based on cosmic principles. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Question 37:

Consider the following statements regarding 'Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award'

1. Earlier, it was named the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.
2. It's the highest sporting award given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
3. The first recipient was Chess legend Viswanathan Anand.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The Government in 2021 renamed the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, the country's highest sporting honor, after hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the highest sporting award given by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sports person over a period of four years. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs 7.5 lakh.
- The Khel Ratna award **was instituted in 1991-1992 and the first recipient was Chess legend Viswanathan Anand.**
 - Among the other winners were Leander Paes, Sachin Tendulkar, Dhanraj Pillay, Pullela Gopichand, Abhinav Bindra, Anju Bobby George, Mary Kom and Rani Rampal in 2020. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 38:

Which one of the following states organized the Kambala buffalo race during the winter months when farmers harvest their paddy crops?

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Karnataka
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Kerala

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **Kambala** is a **buffalo race** held in **Coastal Karnataka districts Udupi and Dakshina Kannada** during the **winter months** when farmers harvest their **paddy crops**.
 - The race is held on two parallel tracks filled with mud and water. Each pair of buffaloes will also have a jockey, or '**Kambala runner**' to control and command the animals on the track.
 - The team that wins qualifies for higher rounds till a champion emerges.

Hence, option B is correct.

Question 39:

Consider the following statements regarding Medaram Jathara:

1. Medaram Jathara is the largest tribal religious congregation in the world, held biennially, in the month of 'Magha' (February) on the full moon day in Medaram.
2. Medaram Jathara commemorates the bravery of Sammakka and Saralamma, tribal goddesses who fought against injustice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Medaram Jathara (primarily celebrated by the **Koya tribe**) is the **largest tribal religious congregation in the world**, held biennially, with approximately 10 million people converging on the place, over four days in the month of '**Magha**' (**February**) on the full moon day in Medaram. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Medaram is a remote place in the **Eturunagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, Telangana.**
- Medaram Jathara commemorates the **bravery of Sammakka and Saralamma**, tribal goddesses who fought against injustice. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - It is a festival with **no Vedic or Brahmanic influence.**

- Sammakka, found as a newborn amidst tigers, grew up to become a tribal chief and married Pagididda Raju (Kakatiya feudatory chief), she had two daughters, **Sarakka and Nagulamma, and a son named Jampanna.**
 - During the Jathara people offer bangaram (gold) in the form of jaggery of a quantity equal to their weight to the goddesses and take holy baths in the Jampanna Vagu (stream).
-

Question 40:

How many of the following statements is/are correct about Jalikattu?

1. It is a bull-taming sport practiced in Tamil Nadu as a part of Pongal celebrations.
2. It has been banned by the Supreme Court of India on the grounds of animal cruelty.
3. It is mentioned in the ancient Tamil epic Silappadikaram.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Jalikattu is a traditional bull-taming sport in which participants attempt to grab the hump of the bull and hang on to it while the bull tries to escape.
 - It is celebrated in the second week of January **during the harvest festival of Pongal** in Tamil Nadu. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The Supreme Court of India had banned Jalikattu in 2014 on the grounds of animal cruelty, following a petition by the Animal Welfare Board of India and other animal rights groups.
 - However, in 2017, the Tamil Nadu government passed an ordinance to allow Jalikattu, which was later upheld by the Supreme Court in 2023. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - **References to Jalikattu can be found in Silappadikaram**, one of the five great epics of Tamil literature, written in the Sangam age (300 BCE - 300 CE). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.** d economic activity in West Bengal. **Hence, Statement 3 is not correct**
-

Question 41:

With reference to Harrapan Archeology, consider the following statements:

1. A. Cunningham found a Harappan Seal in 1853.
2. Marshall excavated Mohen-jo-Daro in 1931.
3. Moritimer Wheeler excavated Harrapa in 1946.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Chronology of Harappan Archaeology

(AD)	
1853	A. Cunningham's find of a Harappan seal. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
1921	Daya Ram Sahani's excavation at Harappa
1931	Marshall excavated Mohenjo Daro. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
1938	Mackay excavated the same size.
1940	Vats excavated Harappa.
1946	Mortimer Wheeler excavated Harappa. Hence, statement 3 is correct

Question 42:

Consider the following sites:

1. Mehrgarh
2. Burzahom
3. Chirand

Which of the given above are Neolithic Sites?

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The **New Stone Age or Neolithic Age** began in 9000 BC. The only known Neolithic settlement in the Indian subcontinent, attributed to 7000 BC, is in **Mehrgarh, which is situated in Baluchistan, a province of Pakistan. Hence, option 1 is correct.**
- In the northwest, Kashmiri Neolithic culture was distinguished by its dwelling pits, a wide range of ceramics, the variety of stone and bone tools, and the complete absence of microliths. Its most important site is **Burzahom**, which means 'the place of birch situated 16 km north-west of Srinagar. **Hence, option 2 is correct.**
- The other place that has yielded considerable bone implements in India is **Chirand**, 40 km west of Patna on the northern side of the Ganges. **Hence, option 3 is correct.**

Question 43:

Regarding types of Megalithic Structure, consider the following statements:

1. A dolmen is a megalithic structure formed by placing a large capstone on two or more support stones, forming a chamber below.
2. Cist is a small stone-built coffin-like box or ossuary used to hold the bodies of the dead.
3. Stone circle megaliths are commonly called "cromlechs".

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two

3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Dolmen:** A dolmen is a **megalithic structure formed by placing a large capstone on two or more support stones**, forming a chamber below, sometimes closed in on three sides. Often used as a tomb or burial chamber. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Cist:** A Cist is a **small stone-built coffin-like box or ossuary used to hold the bodies of the dead**. Burials are megalithic forms very similar to dolmens in structure. These types of burials were completely underground. There were single and multiple-chambered cists. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Stone Circles:** **Stone circles are commonly called "cromlechs"** (a word in the Welsh language); the English word "cromlech" is sometimes used in that sense. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 44:

With reference to the 'Rig Vedic culture in India', consider the following statements:

1. Vasistha composed the Gayatri mantra.
2. The term shudra is mentioned in the Rig Veda.
3. The most important divinity in the Rig Veda is Agni.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. 1 and 2 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- In Rigvedic times, the king was assisted by priests. The two priests who played a major role in role in Rig Vedic times were Vasistha and Viswamitra. Vasistha was conservative and Viswamitra a liberal. **Viswamitra composed the Gayatri mantra** to widen the Aryan world. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In Rigvedic times, the tribal society was divided into three occupational groups, warriors, priests, and the common people on the same pattern as in Iran. The **term shudra is mentioned for the first time in the Rig Veda in its tenth book**, which is its latest addition. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **The most important divinity in the Rig Veda is Indra**, who is called Purandara or destroyer of dwelling units. The **second position** is held by **Agni**. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 45:

Consider the following pairs:

Mahajanpadas	Capital
1. Anga	Kausambi
2. Kosala	Vaishali
3. Vatsa	Champa

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. All three pairs
4. None of the above

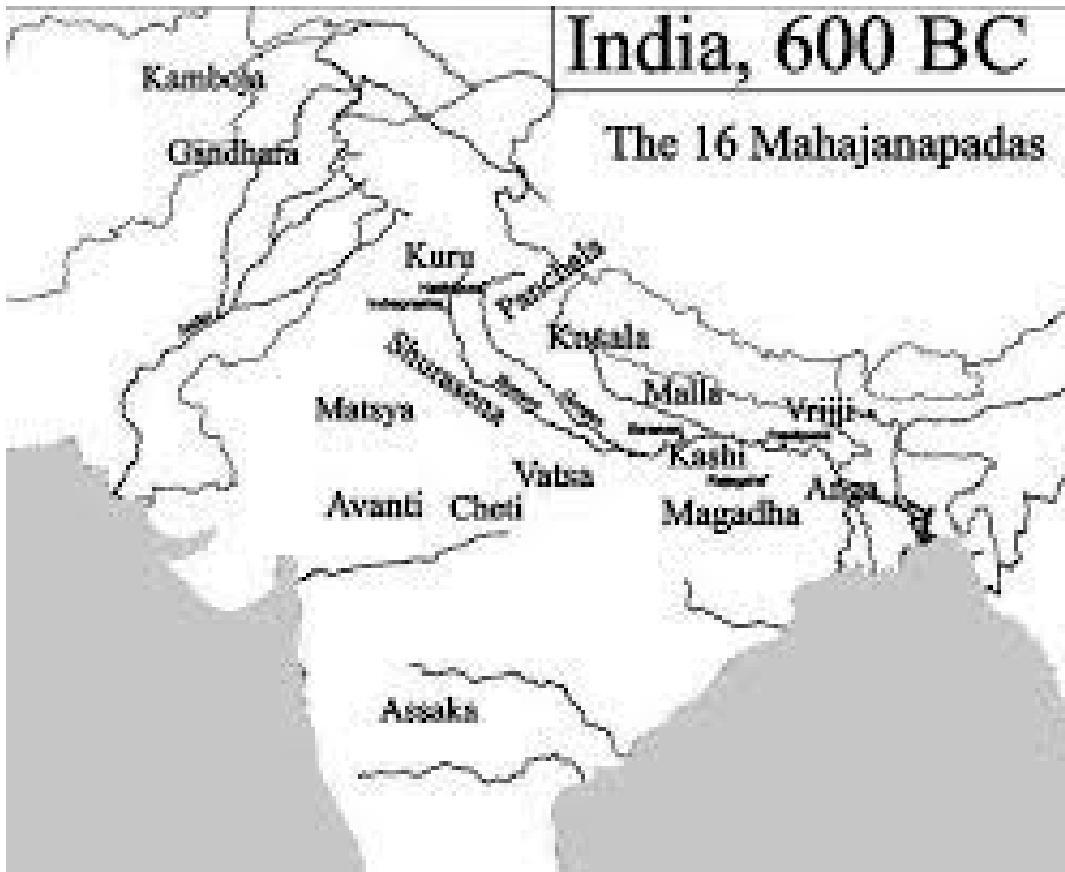
Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- **Anga:** Anga was located in the east of Magadha and west of Raj Mahal hills. **It had its capital at Champa.** It roughly corresponds to the modern districts of Munger and Bhagalpur. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Kosala:** The Shatpath Brahman gives a description of Kosala Mahajanapadas. With its **capital at Shravasti**, it was located in the northwest of Magadha, around the area occupied by present eastern Uttar Pradesh. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Vatsa:** The Vatsa appears to be one from the Rig Vedic period. It is said to be an offshoot of the Kurus, who shifted from Hastinapur and settled in **Kaushambi**. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

India, 600 BC

The 16 Mahajanapadas



Question 46:

Consider the following inscriptions:

1. Rummindei Pillar Inscription
2. Nigalisagar Pillar Inscription
3. Sarnath Lion Capital

Which of the given above is/are Minor pillar inscriptions?

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

▪ Minor Pillar Inscriptions:

- **Rummindei Pillar Inscription:** Asoka's visit to Lumbini & exemption of Lumbini from tax. Hence, option 1 is correct.
- **Nigalisagar Pillar Inscription, Nepal:** It mentions that Asoka increased the height of the stupa of Buddha Konakamana to its double size. **Hence, option 2 is correct.**

▪ Major Pillar Inscriptions:

- **Sarnath Lion Capital:** Near Varanasi was built by Ashoka in commemoration of Dhammachakrapravartana or the first sermon of Buddha. **Hence, option 3 is not correct.**

Vaishali Pillar, Bihar, single lion, with no inscription.

Question 47:

Consider the following Ports of Ancient India:

1. Korkai
2. Kaveripattnam
3. Tondi

Which of the options given above belonged to the Pandya Empire?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

The Pandyas: Covers modern Tirunelveli, Madurai, Ramnad districts and south Travancore.	Capital: Madurai	Port: Korkai Hence, Option 1 is correct.
The Cholas: Covers modern Tanjore and	Capital: Uraiyur	Port: Kaveripattnam Hence, Option 2 is not correct.

Tiruchirappalli districts of Tamil Nadu.		
The Cheras:	Capital: Karuvur	Port: Tondi
Covers mostly the Kerala coast.		Hence, Option 3 is not correct.

Question 48:

Consider the following pairs:

Taxes During Chola Kingdom	Purpose of taxes
1. Tattar Pattam	A tax on goldsmiths
2. Vannar Parai	A tax on washermen
3. Paci pattam	A tax on fishing

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. All three pairs
4. None of the pairs

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- There were many types of labour dues included in local taxes, with irrigational labour (vetti/vettinai) at the village and nadu levels being the most popular. The taxes on homes and shared areas were collectively referred to as natacci.
- **Numerous trade and artisanal dues also existed, including**
 - Cunkam (a toll), and **tattar pattam (a tax on goldsmiths). Hence Pair 1 is correctly matched.**
 - Kurai kacu (a tax on fabric)
 - Verrilai (a tariff on betel leaf)
 - **Vannar parai (a tax on washermen). Hence Pair 2 is correctly matched.**
 - **Paci pattam (a tax on fishing). Hence Pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Question 49:

Which of the following is correct about term 'Vidhata' used in Ancient Indian History?

1. Folk assembly of Vedic period meant for the economic, social and military purpose.
2. A term used in Jainism to refer to the creator of the universe.
3. A deity associated with agriculture in ancient Indian texts.
4. A Buddhist term referring to the ultimate nature of reality.

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

Sabha and Samiti

- The term 'Sabha' referred to an assembly in the Rig Vedic period. The elder members of the 'Jana' took part in the 'Sabha'. This assembly was also attended by women known as 'Sabhavati'. In the later Vedic period, however, women stopped attending the 'Sabha'.
- Music, dance, magic, and witchcraft were also practised at the 'Sabha' along with dicing and gambling. This assembly performed administrative and judicial functions, exercised its judicial authority, and also discussed pastoral affairs.
- The political business and discussions performed in the folk assembly were known as 'Samiti'. The 'Samiti' was responsible for electing the 'Rajan'. Apart from political business, the 'Samiti' also discussed philosophical issues. Prayers and religious ceremonies were a major concern for this assembly. This assembly, however, gained importance only towards the end of the Early Vedic period.

Vidhata

- Vidhata was the earliest tribal assembly. The term 'Vidhata' has been repeated in the Rig Vedas 122 times and, therefore, seems like the most important assembly. The purpose of this assembly was to make decisions for secular, military, economic, social, and religious purposes.
- The participation of women in the 'Sabha' is indicated only once in the Rig Veda. However, there is a frequent mention of the participation of women in the 'Vidhata'. Women also took part in the discussions of the assembly.
- **This was the earliest folk assembly of the Rig Vedic period. The different clans and tribes used the 'Vidhata' as a common ground for the worship of their Gods. Hence, option A is correct.**

Question 50:

Consider the following scholars:

1. Amarsimha
2. Varahmihir
3. Kalidasa

How many of the above was/were adorned as nine gems of Chandragupta II?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

The term "**Navaratna**" refers to a group of nine exceptional scholars and advisors who were part of Chandragupta II's court. These nine individuals were renowned for their expertise in various fields, including literature, astronomy, mathematics, medicine, and the arts.

A brief description of the nine Ratnas is as follows :

- **Amarsimha**: Amarsimha was a **Sanskrit lexicographer and a poet** and his Amarkosha is a vocabulary of Sanskrit roots, homonyms, and synonyms. **Hence, option 1 is correct.**
- **Dhanvantri**: He was a great Physician.
- **Harisena**: He is known to have composed the Prayag Prasasti or Allahabad Pillar Inscription.
- **Kahapanaka** :Kahapanka was an astrologer.
- **Sanku**: Sanku was in the field of Architecture.
- **Varahamihira**: Varahamihira lived in Ujjain and he wrote three important books: Panchasiddhantika, Brihat Samhita, and Brihat Jataka. **Hence, option 2 is correct.**
- **Kalidasa**: A renowned **Sanskrit poet and playwright**, considered one of the greatest literary figures in ancient India. **Hence, option 3 is correct.**
- **Vararuchi**: Vararuchi is the name of another gem of Chandragupta Vikramaditya who was a grammarian and Sanskrit scholar.
- **Vetalbhatta**: Vetalbhatta was a magician

Question 51:

Regarding Harsha's Kingdom, consider the following statements:

1. Harsha made Ujjain his seat of power.
2. The reign of Harsha is historically important because of the visit of Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hein.
3. Harshvardhana began the association of the Kumbh fair at Allahabad.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

Harshavardhana was a Pushyabhuti emperor who ruled northern India from 606 to 647 CE.

- Harsha made **Kannauj** his seat of power, and from there he extended his authority in all directions. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The reign of **Harsha** is historically important because of the visit of Chinese pilgrim **Hsuan Tsang**, who left China in AD 629 and traveled to India. He had come to study at the Buddhist University of Nalanda situated in Bihar. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - **Fa-Hein's** visit to India occurred during the reign of **Chandragupta II.**
- Harshavardhana began the association at Allahabad at 644 BC. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 52:

Regarding the Ghaznavids, consider the following statements:

1. Mahmud of Ghazni invaded India multiple times and sacked the Somnath temple.
2. Firdausi was the poet laureate at the court of Mahmud.
3. Mahmud of Ghazni played a significant role in the spread of Persian culture in the Indian subcontinent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 1 and 3
4. 1, 2, and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The Ghaznavids were **not known for their tolerance**; in fact, Mahmud of Ghazni was infamous for his campaigns against Hindu temples. Mahmud of Ghazni invaded India multiple times and famously sacked the **Somnath temple. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - **Firdausi** was the poet laureate at the court of Mahmud. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Mahmud of Ghazni did play a significant role in the spread of Persian culture in the Indian subcontinent. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
-

Question 53:

Regarding the cultural developments during the Age of Three Empires, consider the following statements:

1. The Palas were great patrons of Sanskrit literature and the Nalanda University.
2. The Rashtrakutas contributed significantly to the development of regional languages like Kannada.
3. The Pratiharas were known for their promotion of Persian literature and art.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The Palas were indeed great patrons of Sanskrit literature and played a significant role in the development of Nalanda University. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - The Rashtrakutas made notable contributions to the development of regional languages like Kannada, as seen in the writings of Pampa and others. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The Pratiharas were not known for their promotion of Persian literature and art; their cultural patronage was more aligned with Hindu traditions. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
-

Question 54:

Consider the following statements about the Turkish rulers :

1. The Turkish rulers played a crucial role in the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. Chahalgani was a council of 80 Turkic slave emirs who administered the Delhi Sultanate.
3. The Turkish rulers introduced the Iqta system in India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- The Turkish rulers, particularly **Qutb-ud-din Aibak**, played a crucial role in the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Corps of Forty/Chahalgani** was a council of 40 Turkic slave emirs who administered the Delhi Sultanate as per the wishes of the sultan. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Turkish rulers introduced the Iqta system, a land revenue system, in India. **Hence, option 3 is correct.**

Question 55:

Consider the following pairs regarding Delhi Sultanate administration:

1. Diwan-i-Insha : Department of Correspondence
2. Diwan-i-Arz : Department of Finance
3. Diwan-i-Risalat : Department of Commerce

How many of the above given pairs are correctly matched?

1. None of the pairs
2. Only one pair
3. Only two pairs
4. All three pairs

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

Department	Meaning	Function
Diwan-i-Risalat	Department of appeals	In charge of foreign affairs and lidealing with diplomatic correspondence
Diwan-i-Qaza	Department of justice	Managing justice
Diwan-i-Khairat	Department of charity	In charge of charity
Diwan-i-arz	Department of Military	Responsible for maintaining the royal army and recruiting troops.was introduced by Balban
Diwan-i-kohi	Department of agriculture	In charge of managing the agricultural activities in the kingdom. This department was created by Muhammad Bin Tughlaq
Diwan-i-insha	Department of correspondence	In charge of the royal correspondence and the regulations set by the Sultans were the basis of law
Diwan-i-Bandagan	Department of slaves	In charge of slaves

Hence, pair 1 is correct. Pair 2,3 are not correct.

Question 56:

Consider the following pairs:

1. Taccavi loan - Allauddin Khilji
2. Share cropping pattern - Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
3. Measurement of Cultivable land - Sikandar Lodhi

How many of the above given pairs are correctly matched?

1. None of the pairs

2. Only one pair
3. Only two pairs
4. All three pairs

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Mohammad Bin Tughlaq set up a new department of Agriculture, Diwan-i-amir-kohi. He launched a scheme by which taccavi loans were given to farmers to buy seed and to extend cultivation. **Hence, pair 1 is not correct.**
- Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq initiated Sharecropping pattern in India. He was first to start digging wells and canals for Irrigation. **Hence, pair 2 is correct.**
- Alauddin Khalji was a powerful ruler. He extended the boundaries of Delhi sultanate beyond Vindhyas up to the Deccan. He was a great administrator. To maintain his army, **Alauddin Khalji gave the order to measure all land which was under cultivation. He was first ruler to do so.** The land was divided and land revenue fixed according to its fertility. **Hence, pair 3 is not correct.**
 - His other reforms included:
 - He started the system of branding of horses and descriptive roster of individual soldiers to inhibit corruption.
 - He fixed the prices of necessary commodities which were below the normal market rates.
 - He strictly prohibited black marketing.
 - Revenue was collected in cash and not in kind.
 - He followed discriminatory policies towards the Hindus and imposed the Jizya, a grazing tax and a house tax on the Hindu community.

Question 57:

Consider the following scholars:

1. Allasani Pedanna
2. Nandi Thimmana
3. Tenali Ramakrishna

How many of the above was/were adorned as **Ashtadiggajas** in the court of **Krishnadevaraya**?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Ashtadiggajas is the collective title given to the **eight great Telugu scholars** and poets in the court of **Emperor Krishnadevaraya**.

These scholars were:

- Allasani Peddana. **Hence, option 1 is the correct**
- Nandi Thimmana. **Hence, option 2 is the correct**
- Madayyagari Mallana
- Dhrujati
- Pingali Surana
- Ramrajabhusanudu
- Tenali Ramakrishna. **Hence, option 3 is the correct**

Question 58:

Consider the following pairs:

Foreign Travellers	Place They came from
1. Nicolo de Conti	Portugal
2. Duarte Barbosa	Italy
3. Abdur Razzaq	Morocco

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. All three pairs
4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

India has been a destination for foreign travelers for centuries, attracting explorers, traders, scholars, and adventurers. Here is a list of foreign travellers who visited the Vijayanagar Kingdom:

Name of Travellers	Place They came from
Abu Abdullah/Ibn Batuta	Morocco.
Nicolo de Conti	Italy. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.
Abdur Razzaq	Persia. Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.
Athanasius Nikitin	Russia
Ludvico de Vortheima	Italy
Duarte Barbosa	Portugal. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.
Dominigo Paes	Portugal
Fernao Nuniz	Portugal
Marco Polo	Republic of Venice

Question 59:

Consider the following pairs:

Literature	Author
1. Tabaqat-i Nasiri	Amir Khusrau
2. Shahnama	Firdausi
3. Nuh Siphir	Minhaj-us -Siraj

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Tabaqat-i Nasiri** is an elaborate history of the Islamic world written in Persian by **Minhaj-i-Siraj** in 1260. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- The **Shahnama** is a long epic poem written by the Persian poet **Firdausi**. Consisting of some 50,000 "distichs" or couplets (two-line verses), the Shahnameh is one of the world's longest epic poems and the longest epic poem created by a single author. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Amir Khusrau** was a prolific writer and has left behind important works like Qirānu-s Sa'dain, Miftahu-l Futuh, Shirin wa Khusrau, Hasht Bihisht, Masnavi Dewal Rani wa Khizr Khan, Matlau'l Anwar, l'jaz-i Khusravl, Khazainu-l Futuh and **Nuh Sipihr**. **pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Question 60:

Regarding the era of Mughals, consider the following statements:

1. Babur introduced the Mansabdari system in his administration.
2. Humayun introduced Char-Bags and symmetrically laid out gardens.
3. Akbar built a new city in Delhi which he named "Dinpanah".

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- **Akbar** introduced the **Mansabdari system** in his administration. In this system, every officer, every officer was assigned a rank. These ranks were divided into Zat and Sawar.
 - **Zat**- It fixed the personal status and salary of a person
 - **Sawar**-It indicated the number of cavalymen a person was required to maintain. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct**
- In the 16th century, the **Chaharbagh** layout was brought from Iran to the Indian subcontinent by **Babur**. This tradition gave birth to the Mughal gardens which perhaps displayed its highest form in the Taj Mahal. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct**

- Humayun ascended the throne in 1530 and in 1533 he founded a new city, Din Panah. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct**
-

Question 61:

How many of the following scholars was/were adorned as **Navratna** in the court of **Akbar**?

1. Raja Todar Mal
2. Mulla Do- Piyaza
3. Faizi

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

According to popular tradition, the court of the Mughal ruler **Akbar** had nine intellectuals called the **Navaratnas** or the nine gems.

All the Navaratnas in the court of Akbar:

- **Mulla Do Pyaja:** He acted as an advisor to Akbar.
- **Raja Todar Mal:** The most prestigious Finance Minister in maybe all of the Mughal Empire.
- **Faizi:** A renowned poet and scholar from The Mughal court.
- **Raja Birbal:** He played the role of the court jester in the court of Akbar.
- **Abul Fazal:** Famous for his writing of his work, the **Akbarnama**.
- **Tansen:** One of the most stalwarts of the Hindustani Classical Music
- **Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khanan:** One of the most revered poets as well as military generals in the Mughal empire.
- **Raja Man Singh:** A trusted Generals of the military of Akbar
- **Fakir Aziao-Din:** He was a Sufi mystic and an advisor.

All the three scholars were adorned as navaratna in the court of Akbar. **Hence, option D is Correct.**

Question 62:

Which of the following is correct about term 'Ayangar' used in Indian History?

1. Ayangars were a group of warriors who fought in the Chola army in ancient India.
2. Ayangars were a group of traders who specialized in the export of spices from India to Europe in the 18th century.
3. Ayangars were a sect of ascetics who practiced strict austerities and meditation in the Himalayas.
4. Ayangars were the functionaries of village administration in Vijayanagar.

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- Ayangar system was a special feature of village administration in Vijayanagar empire. A body of 12 functionaries known as Ayangars conducted the village affairs. **Hence, option D is correct.**
- They were granted tax free lands Manyams which they were to enjoy in perpetuity.

Question 63:

Consider the following statements:

1. In the revenue administration of Delhi Sultanate, the in-charge of revenue collection was known as 'Amil'.
2. The Iqta system of Sultans of Delhi was an ancient indigenous institution.
3. The office of 'Mir Bakshi' came into existence during the reign of Khalji Sultans of Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- In the Delhi Sultanate, the task of collecting revenue directly from peasants and measurement of land rested on Amils. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Iqta system evolved in West Asia, particularly in Persia under the Buyid dynasty, which formalized the system and ruled during the 10th and 11th century. In India, the system was provided an institutional status by Iltutmish (Mamluk dynasty). Under the Iqta system, the land of the empire was divided into various tracts of land called Iqta which were assigned to officers known as 'Iqtadars'. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Ghiyas ud-din Balban (1266 -1287) had setup a military department called 'Diwan-i-arz', under which 'Ariz-i-mamalik' was responsible for the organization and maintenance of the royal army. Alauddin Khalji introduced 'Dagh' system (i.e. branding of horses) to improve horse quality as well as eliminate fake numbering to further enhance efficiency of Diwan-i-arz department. In contrast, Mir Bhakshi was the head of the military department during Mughal India. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
-

Question 64:

What was the immediate reason for Ahmad Shah Abdali to invade India and fight the Third Battle of Panipat?

1. He wanted to avenge the expulsion by Marathas of his viceroy Timur Shah from Lahore.
2. The frustrated governor of Jullundhar Adina Beg Khan invited him to invade Punjab
3. He wanted to punish Mughal administration for non-payment of the revenues of the Chahar Mahal (Gujarat, Aurangabad, Sialkot & Pasrur)
4. He wanted to annex all the fertile plains of Punjab up to the borders of Delhi to his kingdom

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- In 1758, the Maratha forces under Raghunath Rao crossed into the Punjab and drove out Prince Timur, son of Ahmad Shah Abdali whom the latter had left as the governor of the Punjab, and appointed Adina Beg Khan as its governor. Abdali took up the Maratha's expansion as a challenge to his authority.
 - As a result, the Third Battle of Panipat was fought between Marathas and Ahmad Shah in 1761, which resulted in Afghan victory and ceasure of Maratha's dream of unifying India under their rule. **Hence, option A is correct.**
-

Question 65:

'Vaibhasika' is a subset of which one of the following?

1. Jainism
2. Ajivika
3. Buddhism
4. Vaishnavism

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Sarvastivada, (Sanskrit: "Doctrine That All Is Real") also called Vaibhashika, a school of early Buddhism. Hence, option C is correct.**
- A fundamental concept in Buddhist metaphysics is the assumption of the existence of dharmas, cosmic factors and events that combine momentarily under the influence of a person's past deeds to form a person's life flux, which he considers his personality and career. Differences arose among the various early Buddhist schools concerning the ontological reality of these dharmas.
- **While, like all Buddhists, the Sarvastivadins consider everything empirical to be impermanent, they maintain that the dharma factors are eternally existing realities.** The dharmas are thought to function momentarily, producing the empirical phenomena of the world, which is illusory, but to exist outside the empirical world. In contrast, the Sautrantikas (those for whom the sutras, or the scriptures, are authoritative) maintained that the dharma factors are not eternal but momentary, and the only actually existing dharmas are the ones presently functioning.
- **The Sarvastivada school is also known as the Vaibhashika because of the 2nd-century-CE commentary Mahavibhasha ("Great Elucidation"). This text itself was commented upon by the important 4th- or 5th-century Buddhist thinker Vasubandhu in his Abhidharmakosha, prior to his conversion to the Mahayana tradition of Buddhism. Thus, elements of the Sarvastivada school came to influence Mahayana thought.**

Question 66:

Consider the following statements:

1. Bhakti movement in south India was led by saint poets called Alvars.
2. Bhakti movement's focus was on performing rituals and ceremonies for attainment of Moksha.
3. Bhakti movement was taken to North India by Ramanand.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Bhakti movement was based on doctrine that relationship between God and man is through love and worship rather than performing any ritual or religious ceremonies. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It was in south India where Bhakti movement was started by Alvar saints and was taken to North India by Ramanand. **Hence, both statements 1 and 3 are correct.**

Question 67:

Consider the following statements about Sikh Gurus:

1. Gurumukhi script was invented by Guru Angad who was 2nd sikh guru.
2. Guru Arjan Dev compiled Adi granth, which is the holy book of Sikhs.
3. Adi Mahotsava is celebrated every year to commemorate the completion of Adi Granth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Guru Angad Dev, second of the 10 gurus, invented and introduced the Gurmukhi** (written form of Punjabi) script. He popularized and expanded the institution of Guru ka Langar which was started by Guru Nanak Dev. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The compilation of the Adi Granth, the holy text of the Sikhs, was carried out by Guru Arjan Dev.** He oversaw the building of Sri Darbar Sahib, also known as the Golden Temple, in Amritsar. He established the town of Tarn Taran Sahib close to Goindwal Sahib. He was the first great martyr in Sikh history and was honored with the title Shaheedan-de-Sartaj (The crown of martyrs) after being executed on the orders of Emperor Jahangir. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Adi Mahotsava is a national tribal festival organized by TRIFED** under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs since 2007. It celebrates tribal culture, crafts, gastronomy, trade, and traditional art. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The 2023 theme is "A celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture, Cuisine, and Commerce". The festival offers a platform for tribal artisans to showcase and sell their products directly to consumers while promoting their business. It is a celebration of India's diverse tribal heritage and their creativity.

Question 68:

Which of the following pairs of Ashtha-Pradhan of Shivaji are correctly matched?

1. Sar-i-Naubat – Military commander
2. Panditrao – Master of ceremonies
3. Sumanta – Charities and religious administration.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1 and 3 only

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Shivaji was a great administrator. He laid the foundations of a sound system of administration. The king was the pivot of the government. He was assisted by a council of ministers called **Ashtapradhan**.

- However, each minister was directly responsible to Shivaji.

1. Peshwa – Finance and general administration. Later he became the prime minister.
 2. **Sar-i-Naubat or Senapati – Military commander, a honorary post.**
 3. Amatya – Accountant General.
 4. Waqenavis – Intelligence, posts and household affairs.
 5. Sachiv – Correspondence.
 6. **Sumanta – Master of ceremonies.**
 7. Nyayadish – Justice.
 8. **Panditrao – Charities and religious administration.**
-

Question 69:

Consider the following statements:

1. Albuquerque, the Portuguese governor, was a contemporary of Krishna Deva Raya.
2. Krishna Deva Raya took the title of Yavanraja Sthapnacharya i.e. restorer of the Yavan kingdom.
3. Krishna Deva Raya wrote books in both Telugu and Sanskrit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- **Krishna Deva Raya maintained friendly relations with Albuquerque**, the Portuguese governor. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - He took titles of Yavanraja Sthapnacharya i.e. restorer of the Yavan kingdom, Abhinava Bhoja, Andhra Bhoj and Andhra Pitamah. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - He was a gifted scholar in both Telugu and Sanskrit of which only two works are extant: the **Telugu work on polity 'Amuktamalyada' and Sanskrit drama 'Jambavati Kalyanam'**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
-

Question 70:

Consider the following pairs:

Officer	Role
1. Barids	Reporter
2. Waqia-Navis	Intelligence officers
3. Mir Saman	In-charge of the imperial household

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

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 3 only

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

Various Officers under Mughal Administration

- **Quanungos:** Hereditary land-holders as well as local officers
- **Faujdar:** In-charge of law and order
- **Amalguzar:** Assessment and collection of land revenue
- **Wazir:** Head of Revenue Department
- **Mir Bakhshi:** Head of Military Department
- **Barids:** Intelligence Officer/Spies
- **Waqia-Navis:** Reporter
- **Mir Saman:** Incharge of Imperial-household

Hence, option D is correct.

Question 71:

Which of the following statements regarding the Portuguese presence in India during the 15th and 16th centuries is/are correct?

1. The Portuguese established the first European factory in India at Calicut.
2. Vasco da Gama's arrival in Calicut marked the beginning of direct sea routes from Europe to India.
3. Albuquerque's 'Blue Water Policy' aimed at dominating Indian Ocean trade.

4. The Portuguese dominance in the spice trade led to the decline of Indian spice merchants.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1, 2, and 3 only
4. 3 and 4 only

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The Portuguese established the first European factory in India at Calicut in 1500. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Vasco da Gama's arrival in Calicut in 1498 marked the beginning of direct sea routes from Europe to India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Albuquerque's 'Blue Water Policy' aimed at dominating the Indian Ocean trade by securing control over key maritime routes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The Portuguese dominance in the spice trade did not directly lead to the decline of Indian spice merchants; instead, it resulted in increased competition and conflicts with **other European powers. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

Hence, option C is correct

Question 72:

Which of the following statements regarding the English East India Company's early ventures in India are true?

1. The English established their first factory in India at Surat.
2. Sir Thomas Roe was the first English ambassador to the Mughal court.
3. The Battle of Plassey in 1757 marked the beginning of British political dominance in India.
4. The English initially focused on spice trade and later shifted to textile trade.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only

3. 1, 2, and 3 only

4. 2, 3, and 4 only

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The English established their first factory in India at Masulipatnam, not Surat. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Sir Thomas Roe was the first English ambassador to the Mughal court during the reign of Jahangir. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Battle of Plassey in 1757 marked the beginning of British political dominance, but it was fought between the British East India Company and Siraj-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Bengal. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The English initially focused on spice trade and later shifted their focus to textile trade. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

Hence, option D is correct.

Question 73:

Regarding the Dual Government in Bengal, consider the following statements:

1. The dual system of government was introduced by Warren Hastings in Bengal.
2. Under the dual government system, the Company acquired the Diwani functions from the Subhadhar of Bengal.
3. This system led to an administrative breakdown and proved disastrous for the people of Bengal.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Robert Clive** introduced the dual system of government, i.e., **the rule of the two**—the **Company and the Nawab**—in Bengal in which both the Diwani, i.e., collecting revenues, and Nizamat, i.e., police and judicial functions, came under the control of the Company. **Warren Hastings** did away with the dual system in **1772**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The Company acquired the **Diwani functions from the emperor** and the Nizamat functions from the subahdar of Bengal. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- **The dual system led to an administrative breakdown** and proved disastrous for the people of Bengal. Neither the Company nor the Nawab cared for administration and public welfare. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

Question 74:

Consider the following pairs:

Battle	Associated Treaty
1. Battle of Buxar	Treaty of Serringpatnam
2. Third Anglo-Mysore War	Treaty of Bassein
3. Battle of Poona	Treaty of Allahabad

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. All three pairs
4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The **Treaty of Allahabad** was signed on 16 August 1765, between the Mughal Emperor **Shah Alam II** and **Robert Clive**, of the East India Company, in the aftermath of the **Battle of Buxar** on 22 October 1764. Hence, **pair 1 is not correctly matched**.
- The **Treaty of Seringapatam 1792**, ended the **Third Anglo-Mysore War**. Its signatories included **Lord Cornwallis** on behalf of the British East India Company, representatives of the **Nizam of Hyderabad** and the **Maratha Empire**, and **Tipu Sultan**, the ruler of Mysore. Hence, **pair 2 is not correctly matched**.
- The **Treaty of Bassein** was a pact between the **English East India Company** and **Baji Rao II**,

the Maratha confederacy's Peshwa, it was signed on 31 December 1802 after the **Battle of Poona**, at the present-day Bassein (Vasai). **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Question 75:

With reference to the Subsidiary Alliance System, consider the following statements:

1. It was pioneered by Lord Wellesley in India.
2. The allying Indian state's ruler was compelled to accept the permanent stationing of a British force within his territory.
3. When the state failed to pay the money in time, it was asked to cede certain parts of its territories to the Company in lieu of payment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **The system of subsidiary alliances** was pioneered by the French East India Company governor **Joseph François Dupleix**, who in the late 1740s established treaties with the Nizam of Hyderabad, and other Indian princes in the Carnatic region. It was probably Dupleix, who first gave on hired European troops to Indian rulers to fight their wars.
 - The subsidiary alliance system was used by Lord Wellesley, who was governor general from 1798-1805, to build an empire in India. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Under the system, **the allying Indian state's ruler was compelled to accept the permanent stationing of a British force within his territory and to pay a subsidy** for its maintenance. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In the last stage, the money or the protection fee was fixed, usually at a high level; when the state failed to pay the money in time, **it was asked to cede certain parts of its territories** to the Company in lieu of payment. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 76:

Consider the following pairs:

Policy	Associated Governor General
1. Policy of Masterly Inactivity	John Lawrence
2. Policy of Proud Reserve	Auckland
3. Policy of Ring Fence	Warren Hastings

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. All three pairs
4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **John Lawrence (1864-69)** started a **policy of masterly inactivity**, which was a reaction to the disasters of the First Afghan War and an outcome of practical common sense and an intimate knowledge of the frontier problem and of Afghan passion for independence. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Lytton** started a new foreign policy of '**proud reserve**', which was aimed at having scientific frontiers and safeguarding 'spheres of influence'. According to Lytton, the relations with Afghanistan could no longer be left ambiguous
 - **Auckland** who came to India as the governor-general in 1836, advocated a **forward policy**. This implied that the Company government in India itself had to take the initiative to protect the boundary of British India from a probable Russian attack. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **Warren Hastings** took charge as the governor general at a critical period of British rule when the British were to encounter the powerful combination of the Marathas, Mysore, and Hyderabad.
 - He followed a **policy of ring-fence** which aimed at creating buffer zones to defend the Company's frontiers. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Question 77:

Consider the following:

1. Assessment of land revenue on the basis of nature of the soil and the quality of crops
2. Use of mobile cannons in warfare

3. Cultivation of tobacco and red chillies

Which of the above was/were introduced into India by the English?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2
3. 2 and 3
4. None

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- System of land revenue, under which the land was assessed by a systematic survey and measurement of the entire cultivable land was initiated by Sher Shah Suri. During Akbar's rule, this system was more elaborated and implemented in detail across the Mughal Empire. Akbar followed the system of standardization of measurement of land; ascertaining the produce per bigha of land; and fixation of the State's share in that produce. **Hence, 1 is not correct.**
- In the First Battle of Panipat (1526), Babur used cannons against Ibrahim Lodhi's army. It was further used by Babur himself in the Battle of Khanwa in 1528 against the army of Rana Sanga. **Hence, 2 is not correct.**
- Chillies are believed to be of Mexican origin and dates back to 3500 BC. It was introduced to the rest of the world by Christopher Columbus who discovered America in 1493. It became popular in Portugal. In 1498, Vasco-da-Gama reached Indian shores and introduced chillies in India. Tobacco is a plant that grows natively in North and South America. **Hence, 3 is not correct.**

Question 78:

Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of Ryotwari Settlement in India during the British rule?

1. Lord Cornwallis
2. Alexander Read
3. Thomas Munro

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

1. 1 only

2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- Land settlements introduced in India by the English East India Company are as follows:
- **Permanent Settlement (1793):**
 - It was introduced by Lord Cornwallis. Hence, 1 is not correct.
 - The Rajas and Taluqdars were recognised as zamindars and asked to collect rent from the peasants and pay revenue to the Company.
 - The amount to be paid was fixed permanently.
- **Mahalwari Settlement (1822):**
 - It was devised by Holt Mackenzie in the Northwestern Provinces (region of Agra, Oudh and Punjab).
 - Collectors went from village to village, inspecting the land, measuring the fields, and recording the customs and rights of different groups.
 - The estimated revenue of each plot within a village was added up to calculate the revenue that each village (Mahal) had to pay.
 - This demand was to be revised periodically.
 - The charge of collecting the revenue and paying it to the Company was given to the village headman, rather than the zamindar.
- **Ryotwari System (1820):** It was started in South India by Captain Alexander Read and Thomas Munro. **Hence, 2 and 3 are correct.**
 - This system allowed the government to deal directly with the peasant (ryot) for revenue collection, and gave the peasant freedom to give up or acquire new land for cultivation.

Question 79:

Which of the following statements are true regarding the 'Doctrine of Lapse' introduced by Lord Dalhousie?

1. The Doctrine of Lapse was applied to annex the state of Satara.
2. It allowed the British to annex any princely state if the ruler died without a natural heir.
3. The Doctrine of Lapse was applied to the state of Awadh.

Select the correct option:

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only

3. 1 and 3 only

4. 1, 2, and 3

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- The Doctrine of Lapse was a controversial policy **introduced by Lord Dalhousie**, the Governor-General of India, **during the mid-19th century**.
- The doctrine aimed at annexing princely states if they lacked a natural heir, either adopted or biological, upon the demise of the ruler.
 - According to Dalhousie, if a ruler died without a male heir, the state's sovereignty would "lapse" or be annexed by the British East India Company.
- Satara was annexed using the Doctrine of Lapse. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Doctrine of Lapse allowed the British to annex any princely state if the ruler died without a natural heir. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Doctrine of Lapse also applied to Awadh; it was annexed under the pretext of misgovernance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 80:

Consider the following pairs:

Women's Organisation	Women Leader
1. Bharat Stree Maha Mandal	Ramabai Ranade
2. Bharat Mahila Parishad	Sarla Devi Chaudhurani
3. Arya Mahila Samaj	Pandita Ramabai Saraswati

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- Bharat Stree Mahamandal was a women's organization founded by **Sarala Devi Chaudhurani** in Prayagraj in 1910. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
 - **Ramabai Ranade** founded the **Ladies Social Conference** (Bharat Mahila Parishad), under the parent organization National Social Conference, in 1904 in Bombay. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
 - **Pandita Ramabai Saraswati** founded the **Arya Mahila Samaj** to serve the cause of women. She pleaded for improvement in the educational syllabus of Indian women before the English Education Commission. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
-

Question 81:

He had opened a Rajkot College in Kathiawar for political training of Indian princes. He also establishment of Statistical Survey of India and Department of Agriculture and Commerce. While visiting the convict settlement at Port Blair in the Andaman Islands in 1872 for the purpose of inspection, he was assassinated by Sher Ali Afridi, an Afghan convict who used a knife. Which of the following Governor General/Viceroy mentioned below have the above-mentioned characteristics?

1. Lord Mayo
2. Lord Lytton
3. Lord Ripon
4. Lord Lansdowne

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

Lord Mayo 1869-72:

- Opening of the Rajkot College in Kathiawar and the Mayo College at Ajmer for political training of Indian princes.
- Establishment of Statistical Survey of India.
- Establishment of Department of Agriculture and Commerce.
- Introduction of state railways.
- Lord Mayo took interest in the Prison reforms, especially the convict settlements at the Andaman Islands. The most important legal reform during his time was the passage of the Indian Evidence Act in 1872. The act removed this anomaly and differentiation and introduced a standard set of law applicable to all Indians. Earlier the law system was differentiated and was applied as per the caste, community and social group in question.
- While visiting the convict settlement at Port Blair in the Andaman Islands in 1872 for the purpose

of inspection, he was assassinated by Sher Ali Afridi, an Afghan convict who used a knife. **Hence, option A is correct.**

Question 82:

Regarding Balshastri Jambhekar, consider the following statements:

1. He started the newspaper Darpan in 1832.
2. He was the first professor of Hindi at the Elphinstone College.
3. He founded Paramahansa Mandali in 1849.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

Balshastri Jambhekar (1812–46) was a pioneer of social reform through journalism in Bombay; he attacked Brahminical orthodoxy and tried to reform popular Hinduism.

- He started the newspaper **Darpan** in 1832. Known as the **father of Marathi journalism**, Jambhekar used the Darpan to awaken the people to an awareness of social reforms, such as widow remarriage, and to instill in the masses a scientific approach to life. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- He was the first professor of Hindi at the Elphinstone College Founded in 1849 in Maharashtra. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Paramahansa Mandali** was started as a secret society by Dadoba Pandurang, Mehtaji Durgaram, and others. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

Question 83:

Consider the following pairs:

Movement	Propounder
1. Justice Movement	C.N. Mudaliar
2. Self-Respect Movement	E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker
3. Aruvippuram Movement	Narayana Guru

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Justice Movement:** This movement in the Madras Presidency was started by **C.N. Mudaliar, T.M. Nair, and P. Tyagaraja** to secure jobs and representation for the non-brahmins in the legislature. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Self-Respect Movement:** This movement was started by **E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker**, and Balija Naidu, in the mid-1920s. The movement aimed at nothing short of a rejection of the Brahminical religion and culture which Naicker felt was the prime instrument of exploitation of the lower castes. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Aruvippuram Movement:** **Narayana Guru**, himself from the Ezhava caste, took a stone from the Neyyar river and installed it as a Sivalinga at Aruvippuram on Sivaratri in 1888. It was intended to show that the consecration of an idol was not the monopoly of the higher castes.
 - The movement (Aruvippuram Movement) drew the famous poet Kumaran Asan. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Question 84:

She went on from girls' education to question many social evils and work towards eradicating them. She started the Mahila Seva Mandal to raise awareness about women's rights. She rigorously campaigned against the dehumanisation of widows and advocated widow remarriage, organised a successful barbers' strike to denounce the inhumane practice of shaving widows' heads. She set up a home called Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (home to prevent infanticide), where unwed mothers and widows who became pregnant under unfortunate circumstances could have safe deliveries instead of resorting to killing the infants or themselves. She set an example against the evil of untouchability by opening their own water storage to everyone. Which of the following Social Reformer's great work described above?

1. Sarla Devi Chaudhrani
2. Savitribai Phule
3. Cornelia Sorabji
4. None of the Above

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- Savitribai went on from girls' education to question many social evils and work towards eradicating them. **She started the Mahila Seva Mandal** to raise awareness about women's rights. She and her husband rigorously campaigned against the dehumanisation of widows and advocated widow remarriage.
- Savitribai is said to have **organised a successful barbers' strike** to denounce the inhumane practice of shaving widows' heads. With her husband, she set up a home called **Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha (home to prevent infanticide) in 1863**, where unwed mothers and widows who became pregnant under unfortunate circumstances could have safe deliveries instead of resorting to killing the infants or themselves. Savitribai is said to have organised a successful barbers' strike to denounce the inhumane practice of shaving widows' heads.
- She and her husband set an example against the evil of untouchability by opening their own water storage to everyone. After Jyotiba's death, Savitribai took over the Satya Shodhak Samaj, presiding over the meetings, guiding the workers, and working for plague victims. She died in 1897, getting infected by the plague while caring for a patient. **Hence, Option B is correct.**

Question 85:

Regarding early political associations in British India, consider the following statements:

1. The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha was founded by Badruddin Tyabji.
2. The Bombay Presidency Association was started by Mahadev Govind Ranade.
3. The Indian League was started by Sisir Kumar Ghosh in 1875.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha** was founded in 1867 by **Mahadev Govind Ranade** and others, with the object of serving as a bridge between the government and the people. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The Bombay Presidency Association** was started by **Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozeshah Mehta, and K.T. Telang** in 1885. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **The Indian League was started in 1875 by Sisir Kumar Ghosh** with the object of “stimulating the sense of nationalism amongst the people” and of encouraging political education. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 86:

Consider the following pairs:

Association	Founder
1. Indian Home Rule Society	Shyamji Krishna Verma
2. Anushilan Samiti	V.D.Savarkar
3. Abhinav Bharat	Promotha Mitter

Which of the above pair/(s) is/ are correctly matched?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- Shyamji Krishna Verma established the '**Indian Home Rule Society**' in 1905 in London. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- '**Anushilan Samiti**' was founded in 1902 in Calcutta by **Pramod Mitter**. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

- Abhinav Bharat was named after the '**Abhinav Bharat Society**', an organisation founded by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

Hence, option A is correct.

Question 87:

Consider the following tribes:

1. Koli
2. Paddari
3. Bakarwals

How many of the above are ethnic tribes of Jammu and Kashmir?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **About Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024:**
 - The bill particularly focuses on including four ethnic groups in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - The ethnic groups are **Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Paddari Tribe, and Pahari Ethnic Group.**
 - By extending Scheduled Tribe status to these communities, the bill intends to ensure their socio-economic and political empowerment.
 - **Significance:**
 - The bill ensures that the reservations for these existing communities such as **Gujjars and Bakarwals** remain unaffected while providing new reservations for the newly listed STs.
 - **Gujjars and Bakarwals** are nomadic — they migrate with their livestock to the higher reaches in the summer, and return before the onset of winter.
 - **Hence, Option C is correct.**
-

Question 88:

Which one of the following towns is often referred to as 'Jain Kashi'?

1. Hampi
2. Vaishali
3. Moodbidri
4. Ujjain

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Recently, the two coastal towns **Moodbidri** and **Karkala** in **Karnataka**, are reviving their ancient water bodies that date back to thousands of years ago.

- These water bodies are part of the **natural heritage** and cultural identity of the towns, which are also known for their **Jain temples** and **monasteries**.
- **Moodbidri** town is known as '**Jain Kashi**' (Benares of the Jains). It is home to **Jain temples (Basadis and Nishidis)** as well as monasteries.
- **Hence, option C is correct.**

Question 89:

Consider the following pairs:

Literature	Author
1. The Indian Sociologist	Shyamji Krishnavarma
2. Bande Mataram	Madame Bhikaji Cama
3. Yugantar	Barindra Kumar Ghosh

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. All three pairs

4. None of the above

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Shyamji Krishnavarma** set up Indian Home Rule Society and India House and brought out the journal **The Sociologist** in London in 1905. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
 - **Madame Bhikaji Cama** operated from Paris and Geneva and brought out journal **Bande Mataram**. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
 - **Yugantar** Patrika was a Bengali revolutionary newspaper founded in 1906 in Calcutta by **Barindra Kumar Ghosh**, Abhinash Bhattacharya and Bhupendranath Dutt. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
-

Question 90:

Which of the following is correct about the real British motive behind Bengal partition?

1. Bengal had become too big to be administered, hence administrative convenience was the reason behind the partition.
2. Partition would help in the development of Assam.
3. British desire to weaken Bengal, the nerve centre of Indian nationalism.
4. Dacca could become the capital of the new Hindu majority province.

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- The official reason given for the partition was that Bengal had become too big to be administered and that partition would help in the development of Assam. However, **the real motive behind the partition plan was seen to be the British desire to weaken Bengal, the nerve centre of Indian nationalism.** This was sought to be achieved by putting the Bengalis under two administrations by dividing them on the basis of language and religion, and reducing the Bengalis to a minority in Bengal itself.
- The viceroy at that time, Lord Curzon, tried to woo the Muslims by arguing that Dacca could become the capital of the new Muslim majority province, which would provide them with a unity not experienced by them since the days of old Muslim viceroys and kings. **Hence, option C is**

correct.

Question 91:

Regarding the Subika Painting, consider the following statements:

1. This painting style is intricately linked to the Kuki community's cultural history in Manipur.
2. The paintings are done on handmade paper or tree bark.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

Ancient Subika Painting:

- In a bid to preserve Manipur's rich cultural heritage, a concerted effort is underway to revive the ancient **Subika painting style in Manipur**, which is on the brink of extinction.
- The Subika painting style is intricately linked to the **Meitei community's** cultural history through its six surviving manuscripts: Subika, Subika Achouba, Subika Laishaba, Subika Choudit, Subika Cheithil and Thengrakhel Subika. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The paintings are **done on handmade paper**, and the materials for manuscripts, such as handmade paper or tree bark, are prepared locally. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Question 92:

Regarding the Non-Cooperation Movement, consider the following statements:

1. M.K. Gandhi moved the main resolution on non-cooperation in the annual session of the Congress in 1920.
2. Alluri Sitaram Raju led the tribals in Kerala during this movement.
3. J.M. Sengupta supported the laborers on tea plantations in Assam during this protest.

How many of the above statements are correct?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

M.K. Gandhi issued a manifesto in March 1920, announcing his doctrine of the Non-Cooperation Movement. He was the main force behind the movement and urged the people to adopt Swadeshi principles and habits including hand spinning, weaving and work for the removal of untouchability.

- **C.R. Das** moved the main resolution on non-cooperation in the annual session of the Congress in Nagpur in 1920 and played a major role in promoting the movement. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Alluri Sitaram Raju** led the tribals in **Andhra Pradesh** and combined their demands with those of the Non-Cooperation Movement. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **J.M. Sengupta**, a Bengali nationalist leader, supported the laborers on tea plantations in **Assam** in their protests and strikes. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 93:

Who among the following is famously known as "Assam Kesari"?

1. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
2. Ambikagiri Raichoudhury
3. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
4. Sarojini Naidu

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

Ambikagiri Raichoudhury (1885-1967) was an Assamese poet, social worker, and the leading freedom fighter of India's freedom struggle. He is known as **Assam Kesari**. His poetry had a profound impact that helped in arousing nationalist spirit in the Assamese people during the Non-Cooperation Movement.

Hence, **Option B is the correct answer.**

Question 94:

Consider the following events:

1. August Declaration
2. Komagata Maru incident
3. Wars in the Balkans
4. Annulment of partition of Bengal

Which of the following is correct as per chronological order?

1. 4, 2, 1 3
2. 4, 3 2, 1
3. 1, 2, 3, 4
4. 3, 1, 4, 2

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- There were many reasons for Change in the Muslim League's Attitude. The Calcutta session of the Muslim League (1912) had committed the League to "working with other groups for a system of self- government suited to India, provided it did not come in conflict with its basic objective of protection of interests of the Indian Muslims":
 - **Annulment of partition of Bengal in 1911** had annoyed those sections of the Muslims who had supported the partition.
 - Britain's refusal to help Turkey (ruled by the Khalifa who claimed religio-political leadership of all Muslims) in its **wars in the Balkans (1912-13)** and with Italy (during 1911) had angered the Muslims.
- **Montagu's Statement of August 1917 or August Declaration of 1917:** In 1917, the British government announced a policy of increasing Indian participation in government and gradually moving towards self-governance. This meant that Indian nationalists' demand for self-government was no longer considered seditious.
- **The Komagata Maru incident - 1914:** Komagata Maru was the name of a ship which was

carrying 370 passengers, mainly Sikh and Punjabi Muslim would-be immigrants, from Singapore to Vancouver. They were turned back by Canadian authorities after two months of privation and uncertainty.

- It was generally believed that the Canadian authorities were influenced by the British government. The ship finally anchored at Calcutta in September 1914.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

Question 95:

Consider the following pairs:

Books	Author
1. Bandi Jivan	Sharatchandra Chatterjee
2. Pather Dabi	Sachin Sanyal
3. Philosophy of the Bomb	Bhagwati Charan Vohra

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Correct Answer : 1

Explanation

- **Bandi Jivan** (A Life of Captivity) is an autobiographical account written by **Sachindranath Sanyal**. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
 - **Pather Dabi** (The Right of Way; or Demands of the Road) is a Bengali novel written by **Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay**. It was first published as a novel in 1926. The book is about a secret society named Pather Dabi whose goal is to free India from British rule. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
 - **Philosophy of the Bomb** was written by **Bhagwati Charan Vohra** as a response to Gandhi's criticism of the use of violent methods by revolutionaries. In it, revolutionaries defended their methods by saying that these violent methods were as important as Gandhiji's non-violent methods. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
-

Question 96:

Consider the following statements regarding Dyarchy as per Govt of India Act 1919:

1. It was the rule of two i.e. executive councillors and popular ministers.
2. Unlike executive councillors, Ministers were to be responsible to the legislature.
3. There were two lists of Subjects called 'reserved' and 'transferred'.
4. Unlike reserved subjects, the governor general could interfere in respect of transferred subjects.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 1, 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms and Government of India Act, 1919:

- **Dyarchy**, i.e., rule of two—executive councillors and popular ministers—was introduced.
- The governor was to be the executive head in the province. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Subjects were divided into two lists: 'reserved'** which included subjects such as law and order, finance, land revenue, irrigation, etc., **and 'transferred' subjects** such as education, health, local government, industry, agriculture, excise, etc. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **The reserved subjects were to be administered by the governor through his executive council** of bureaucrats, and the **transferred subjects were to be administered by ministers** nominated from among the elected members of the legislative council.
- **The ministers were to be responsible to the legislature** and had to resign if a no-confidence motion was passed against them by the legislature, while the **executive councillors were not to be responsible to the legislature. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In case of failure of constitutional machinery in the province the governor could take over the administration of transferred subjects also.
- The **secretary of state for India and the governor general could interfere in respect of reserved subjects** while in respect of the **transferred subjects, the scope for their interference was restricted. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

Question 97:

Consider the following statements about 'Swarajists' and 'No changers':

1. 'Swarajists' were the part of that section of congress which opposed entry into legislative council and advocated continuing the resistance for the goal of swaraj.
2. 'No changers' among congress advocated for continued struggle in varied forms and opposed the activities like constructive programs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer : 4

Explanation

- After Gandhi's arrest (March 1922), there was disintegration, disorganisation, and demoralisation among nationalist ranks. A debate started among Congressmen on what to do during the transition period, i.e., the passive phase of the movement.
- **Those advocating entry into legislative councils came to be known as the 'Swarajists', while the 'No-Changers' opposed council entry,** advocated concentration on constructive work, and continuation of boycott and non-cooperation, and quiet preparation for resumption of the suspended civil disobedience programme. **Hence, statement 1 & 2 are not correct.**

Question 98:

With reference to Indian freedom struggle, consider the following events:

1. Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy
2. Quit India Movement launched
3. Second Round Table Conference

What is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

1. 1 - 2 - 3
2. 2 - 1 - 3

3. 3 - 2 - 1

4. 3 - 1 - 2

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

- **Royal Indian Navy Mutiny:** It broke out in February 1946, when a section of non-commissioned officers and sailors known as Ratings revolted against British officers. It started as a strike demanding better food and accommodation. The mutiny came to an end with the intervention of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The mutineers surrendered on 23rd February 1946.
 - **Quit India Movement:** Mahatma Gandhi decided to initiate a new phase of the movement called Quit India Movement against the British in August 1942. He gave the slogan, 'do or die' to the masses and asked them to protest non-violently. Gandhi and other leaders were jailed at once, but the movement took its own course.
 - **Second Round Table Conference:** A Second Round Table Conference was held in London during September 1931 to December 1931. Here, Gandhi represented the Indian National Congress (INC). It was the only Round Table Conference in which INC participated. **Hence, option C is correct.**
-

Question 99:

Consider the following statements regarding the Round Table Conferences:

1. At the First Round Table Conference, it was agreed that all departments except for defence and finance would be transferred.
2. At the Second Round Table Conference, India's constitutional future was discussed and decided.
3. Third Round Table Conference proposed the draft Bill for Government of India Act of 1935.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer : 2

Explanation

- **First Round Table Conference:** Nothing much was achieved at the conference. It was generally agreed that **India was to develop into a federation**, there were to be **safeguards regarding defence and finance, while other departments were to be transferred. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Second Round Table Conference:** The lack of agreement among the many delegate groups meant that **no substantial results regarding India's constitutional future would come out of the conference. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Third Round Table Conference:** It was not attended by the Indian National Congress and Gandhi. It was ignored by most other Indian leaders.
 - The recommendations were published in a White Paper in March 1933 and debated in the British Parliament afterwards. A Joint Select Committee was formed to analyse the recommendations and formulate a new Act for India, and that **committee produced a draft Bill in February 1935, which was enforced as the Government of India Act of 1935 in July 1935. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Question 100:

Consider the following statements regarding Quit India Movement (QIM):

1. Communists supported Quit India Movement.
2. Hindu Mahasabha and youth were in forefront while participating in the movement.
3. Gandhi started a fast to condemn violence by the masses in the form of Parallel governments.

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

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 1, 2 and 3 only
4. All statements are correct.

Correct Answer : 3

Explanation

Quit India Movement: Extent of Mass Participation:

- **Youth**, especially the students of schools and colleges, remained in the forefront.
- **Workers** went on strikes and faced repression.
- **Peasants of all strata** were at the heart of the movement. Even some zamindars participated.

These peasants concentrated their offensive on symbols of authority, and there was complete absence of anti-zamindar violence.

- **Muslims** helped by giving shelter to underground activists. There were no communal clashes during the movement.
- **The Communists did not join the movement; in the wake of Russia** (where the communists were in power) **being attacked by Nazi Germany, the communists began to support the British war against Germany** and the 'Imperialist War' became the 'People's War'. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The Muslim League** opposed the movement, fearing that if the British left India at that time, the minorities would be oppressed by the Hindus.
- **The Hindu Mahasabha boycotted the movement.** The **Princely states showed a low-key response.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Gandhi Fasts:** In February 1943, **Gandhi started a fast as an answer to an exhortation by the government to condemn violence; the fast was directed against the violence of the State.** **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - The popular response to the news of the fast was immediate and overwhelming. Protests were organised at home and abroad through hartals, demonstrations, and strikes. Three members of the viceroy's executive council resigned.

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