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ANCIENT HISTORY & CULTURE

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Multiple
Choice
Questions
and
Answers

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QUESTIONS

1. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Sant Guru Ravidas':

1. He is known by various names like Raidas, Rohidas, and Ruhidas and hailed from a community traditionally associated with leatherwork.
2. He made significant contributions to the Bhakti Movement, emphasising devotion to the divine and promoting spiritual equality.
3. Some of his compositions are included in the revered scripture, Guru Granth Sahib Ji, adding to his literary and philosophical significance.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

2. Regarding the Aihole Inscription, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in Andhra Pradesh.
2. It was crafted by the renowned poet Pampa.
3. The inscription is a lyrical tribute to the Chalukya dynasty, particularly King Pulakesin II.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Pandavula Gutta is rich in terms of rock shelters, and habitation from the Mesolithic period (about 10,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C.) to mediaeval times.
2. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is headquartered in Kolkata and is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Gulaal Gota is a small ball made of lac, filled with dry gulaal, and weighs around 20 grams when filled.
2. Lac, the primary raw material for Gulaal Gota, is sourced from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

5. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Gurmukhi script was developed from the Śāradā script, standardised and used by the tenth Sikh guru, Guru Govind Singh.

Statement-II: Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme targets 10,000 Sikh youth and women for modern skills training in employment-oriented job roles.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- A. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- B. Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- C. Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.
- D. Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

6. Consider the following pairs:

GI Tag	State
Crochet Lace Craft	Andhra Pradesh
Majuli Masks	Assam
Patan Patola	Gujarat

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

7. Regarding 'Maratha Military Landscapes', consider the following statements:

1. It is a network of 12 forts and fortifications that represent the extraordinary military system and strategy of the Maratha rulers in the 17th-19th centuries.
2. They were included in the Tentative List of World Heritage sites in 2021.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

8. Consider the following statements regarding 'Kalaripayattu':

1. It is an Indian martial art that originated in Kerala during the 3rd century BC to the 2nd century AD.
2. It is a personal combat training system that includes exercises to develop sharp reflexes for unarmed combat and skilful fighting using sticks.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

9. 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?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

10. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Magh Bihu':

1. Magh Bihu, also called Bhogali Bihu or Maghor Bihu, is a festival of harvest celebrated in the state of Assam.
2. The festival falls in the month of October and marks the end of the harvesting season.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

11. 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?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

12. Regarding Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, consider the following statements:

1. He introduced the collection of two taxes called the Chauth and Sardeshmukhi.
2. He abolished the Ryotwari System and replaced it with the Jagirdari System.
3. He took on the title of "Haindava Dharmodhhaarak."

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

13. Consider the following tribes:

1. Koli
2. Paddari
3. Bakarwals

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

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

14. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Yakshagana Mela':

1. Yakshagana is a dance-drama performance unique to Karnataka.
2. It features men portraying all roles and no particular roles for women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

15. Consider the following statements regarding the Bhil Tribe:

1. They are the largest tribal group of Odisha.
2. They are known to be excellent archers as well as skilled sculptors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

16. 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:

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

17. With reference to 'Gangasagar Mela', consider the following statements :

1. Gangasagar Mela takes place during Makar Sankranti, and is said to be India's largest pilgrimage gathering.
2. This annual pilgrimage is organized at Sagar Island at the confluence of the river Ganges and Bay of Bengal.
3. It has been granted national fair status by the central government.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

18. Regarding the Nagara Style of Temple Architecture, consider the following statements:

1. It emerged approximately in the 7th century CE, during the late Gupta period, in southern India.
2. Nagara temples are built on a raised plinth, with the Garbha Griha the most sacred part of the temple.
3. A typical Nagara-style temple also comprises a circumambulatory passage around the garbha griha.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All Three
- D. None

19. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Madhika Language':

1. Madhika is a language with Brahmi script, and is a blend of Telugu, Tulu, Kannada, and Malayalam.
2. The neglect of Madhika is attributed to the social stigma associated with the Chakaliya community.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

20. With reference to the Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, consider the following statements:

1. They are also known as Vimukt Jatis.
 2. They were officially de-notified by the Indian Government in 1972.
 3. They make up around 20% of the Indian population.
- How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

21. Consider the following temple architecture:

1. Valabhi
2. Phamsana
3. Bhumija

How many of the above belong to Nagara Style?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

22. Consider the following pairs:

Festivals	State
1. Uttrayan	Assam
2. Bihu	Gujarat
3. Pongal	Tamil Nadu

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. Only one pair
- B. Only two pairs
- C. All three pairs
- D. None of the above

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

- A. Hampi
- B. Vaishali
- C. Moodbidri
- D. Ujjain

24. Consider the following statements:

1. The new logo of National Medical Commission (NMC) features a colourful image of Lord Krishna, an avatar of Lord Vishnu.
2. Dhanvantri is revered as the deity associated with Ayurveda, the traditional system of medicine in Hinduism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

25. Consider the following pairs:

Dance	State
1. Kolattam	A. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Ponung	B. Andhra Pradesh
3. Bagurumba	C. Assam

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

26. With reference to Mithila region of Bihar, consider the following statements :

1. Mithila has a rich and ancient history, dating back to the Vedic period of 1500-500 BCE.
2. It is bounded by the Himalayas in the north, the Ganges in the south, the Mahananda River in the west, and the Gandaki River in the east.
3. It is also known as Mahla and mentioned in revenue records of the United Provinces of Bihar, Bengal, and Orissa.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

27. Chavittunatakam, a drama form, was recently seen in the news. It is associated with which of the following states?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Kerala
- C. Karnataka
- D. Manipur

28. Consider the following statements regarding Mudi yettu:

1. It is a traditional ritual theatre and folk dance drama from Kerala that enacts the mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika.
2. The ritual is a part of the bhagavathi or bhadrakali cult and is performed between February and May after the harvesting season.
3. Mudi yettu is part of UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

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

- A. Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre of India
- B. Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana of India
- C. Taj Mahal, a mausoleum of India
- D. Yoga, a physical, mental and spiritual practice of India

30. Q, With reference to the Birsa Munda, consider the following statements:

1. He started the Paika movement involving guerrilla warfare, challenging religious practices, and social changes.
2. Birsa Munda initiated the 'Birsait' faith, emerging as a tribal leader and leading resistance against British conversion efforts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct:

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

31. With reference to Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, consider the following statements:

1. In 2021, the Indian government officially proclaimed 15th November as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, commemorating the valor of tribal freedom fighters.
2. The date is the birth anniversary of Rani Gaidhlinliu who is revered as Bhagwan by tribal communities across the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

32. Consider the following statements:

1. Santhali language is a Munda language spoken primarily in the east-central Indian states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Orissa.
2. The Santhali language was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution through 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.



Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

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

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala

34. Regarding Guru Teg Bahadur consider the following statements:

1. His writings are housed in the sacred text, 'Guru Granth Sahib,' in the form of 116 poetic hymns.
2. In the year 1675, Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed in Delhi under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

35. 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?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

36. Consider the following pairs:

State	Tribes
1. Arunachal Pradesh	a. Mismi
2. Assam	b. Khasis
3. Nagaland	c. Zeliang

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

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

37. The Toto language, spoken by only 1,600 people, is on the brink of extinction. Where is the Toto language primarily spoken?

- A. Bhutan
- B. Assam
- C. West Bengal
- D. Sikkim

38. Consider the following statements about Miniature painting in India:

1. The Pratiharas are considered the pioneers of miniature painting in India.
2. They were often painted for either books or albums, on perishable material including paper, palm leaves and cloth.
3. In Pala miniature painting school, the themes were often taken from the Buddhist tantric rituals.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

39. Consider the following statements regarding Jagannath Temple:

1. It is an example of Kalinga architecture, featuring distinctive curvilinear towers and ornate sculptures.
2. It is also called 'Yamanika Tirtha' because here, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death, has been nullified due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.
3. Snana Yatra is a major festival associated with the deities of Jagannath temple.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

40. With reference to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, consider the following statements:

1. He took on the titles of Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak.
2. He abolished the Ryotwari System and replaced it with the Jagirdari System.

3. He established an efficient army, paying ordinary soldiers in cash and high-ranking officials through jagir grants (Saranjam).

How many of the statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

41. With reference to the Baiga tribe, consider the following statements:

1. They mainly live in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
2. Tattooing is an integral part of Baiga culture, every age and body part has a specific tattoo reserved for the occasion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

42. With reference to the Bathukamma Festival, consider the following statements:

1. The nine-day-long annual festival of flowers Bathukamma began on a colorful note across Karnataka.
2. The festival coincides with the monsoon, bringing water to ponds and wildflowers in vibrant colors.
3. The festival begins a week before the 'Saddula Bathukamma' which falls two days after Dussehra.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

43. 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 ?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

44. With reference to the Nataraja sculpture, consider the following statements:

1. The concept of Shiva as a dancer, known as Nataraja, began to take shape around the 5th century AD.
2. The Nataraja sculpture at Bharat Mandapam is made using the sand casting method.
3. The design of this Nataraja statue at Bharat Mandapam draws inspiration from the Thillai Nataraja Temple, the Uma Maheswarar Temple, the Brihadeeswara (Big) Temple.

How many of the above statements are not correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

45. Regarding the Konark Sun Temple, consider the following statements:

1. It was built by king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty in the 13th century CE.
2. It is the culmination of Kalinga temple architecture and dedicated to the Hindu Sun God Surya.
3. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is depicted on the reverse side of the Indian currency note of 10 rupees.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

46. 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?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None



47. Consider the following statements regarding Hoysala dynasty:

1. They were feudatories of the Chalukyas of Kalyana, also known as the Western Chalukya Empire.
2. Hoysala architecture is a blend of Bhumiya, Nagara and the Dravida styles of architecture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

48. 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?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

49. Consider the following statements regarding Hoysala dynasty:

1. They were feudatories of the Chalukyas of Kalyana, also known as the Western Chalukya Empire.
2. Hoysala architecture is a blend of Bhumiya, Nagara and the Dravida styles of architecture.
3. Mantapa, Vimana and Sculpture are the key elements of Hoysala Architecture.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

50. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Poila Baisakh':

1. It is an important festival celebrated by Bengali communities across West Bengal, Tripura, Jharkhand, and Assam.
2. The West Bengal Legislative Assembly decided to observe the 'Poila Baisakh,' the first day of the Bengali calendar, as 'Bangla Dibas' or West Bengal Foundation Day.
3. Out of India, Nepal is the nation where the Poila Baisakh is celebrated every year.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

51. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Red Fort or Lal Qila':

1. The Mughal Emperor, Jahangir laid the foundations of Red Fort or Lal Qila.
2. This iconic structure was enlisted as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007.
3. The Red Fort showcases a fusion of diverse architectural styles, including Islamic, Hindi, Timurid, and Persian influences.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

52. With reference to the Nataraja Statue, consider the following statements:

1. It is an important piece of Cheras sculpture.
2. The upper right-hand holds the drum, which signifies the sound of creation.
3. The upper left-hand holds the eternal fire, which represents the destruction.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

53. Consider the following statements:

1. Upanishads and Puranas are examples of Classical Sanskrit literature.
2. World Sanskrit Day is celebrated annually on 31st August.
3. Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan in Delhi is the nodal authority to promote Sanskrit.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None of the above

54. Aadi Perukku festival is celebrated in which of the following states of India?

- A. Telangana
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Orissa
- D. Andhra Pradesh

55. With reference to the Historical significance of Sengol, consider the following statements:

1. It is associated with the Chola Empire.
2. A Sengol sceptre was carried by emperors on ceremonial occasions and used to represent their authority.
3. The ceremony of handing over the Sengol sceptre was usually performed by a high priest or a guru.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

56. The Malcha Mahal or Wilahat Mahal was recently in the news. It is related to which of the following Dynasty?

- A. Tughlaq Dynasty
- B. Lodi Dynasty
- C. Mughal Dynasty
- D. Khilji Dynasty

57. Consider the following statements regarding 'Uttaramerur Inscription':

1. The inscription, dating back to the reign of Raja Raja Chola, provides a detailed description of how the village's self-governance functioned.
2. The Village assembly comprises of sabha which was exclusively composed of brahmans.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 Only
- B. 2 Only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

58. Consider the following statements regarding 'Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam':

1. It is a festival that aims to promote the cultural diversity and heritage of India.
2. The festival is being held in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

59. With reference to Thirunelli Temple, consider the following statements:

1. The temple is dedicated to Lord Ayyappa.
2. The temple architecture follows traditional Kerala Style Architecture.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

60. With reference to Basava Jayanti, consider the following statements:

1. It is celebrated in Karnataka during the month of Vaisakha by the Lingayat community.
2. Guru Basaveshwara was a saint from Lingayat community in Shaivism Bhakti movement.
3. The Anubhava Mantapa established by Basava laid down the foundation of social democracy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

61. Which of the following statements is true about Swami Ramanujacharya?

- A. He was an Indian philosopher and theologian who founded the Vishishtadvaita school of Vedanta.
- B. He was a contemporary of Gautama Buddha and the founder of the Maurya Empire.
- C. He was a disciple of Adi Shankaracharya and propagated the Advaita Vedanta philosophy.
- D. He was a social reformer who led the movement against the practice of Sati in India.

62. Consider the following pairs of Traditional New Year Festivals:

STATE	TRADITIONAL NEW YEAR
Tamil Nadu	Puthandu
West Bengal	Nabha Barsha
Assam	Bohag Bihu

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 3

63. With reference to the Adi community, consider the following statements:

1. They are found in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Siang Unying, Solung and Aran are some of the major festivals that are celebrated among this community.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

64. Consider the following pairs:

State	Cultural Element
1. Sikkim	Bumchu Festival
2. Nagaland	Hojagiri
3. Manipur	Lai Haraoba
4. Tripura	Unakoti

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. Only 1 pair
- B. Only 2 pairs
- C. Only 3 pairs
- D. All four pairs

65. Consider the following pairs:

Mudra in Buddhism	Gesture/Meaning
Anjali Mudra	Respect, greeting and gratitude
Vitarka Mudra	Threatening Gesture
Karana Mudra	Depictions of the Buddha or bodhisattvas
Tarjani Mudra	Gesture of Discussion

Which of the following pairs is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

66. With reference to New year festival in India, Consider the following pairs:

Match 1	Match 2
1. Ugadi	Andhra Pradesh
2. Gudi Padwa	Maharashtra
3. Navreh	Tamil Nadu

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWERS

1.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Sant Guru Ravidas, born in 1377 CE in Seer Govardhanpur, Uttar Pradesh, is revered as a saint, philosopher, poet, and social reformer.
 - ◆ Known by various names like Raidas, Rohidas, and Ruhidas, he hailed from a community traditionally associated with leatherwork. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Guru Ravidas made significant contributions to the **Bhakti Movement**, emphasising devotion to the divine and promoting spiritual equality. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Guru Ravidas's teachings emphasised **human rights, equality, and spiritual enlightenment.**
- Some of his compositions are included in the revered

scripture, **Guru Granth Sahib Ji**, adding to his literary and philosophical significance. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

2.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Aihole Inscription of Pulikesin II:**
 - ◆ It is situated in the Megudi temple at Aihole, **Karnataka**, the Aihole inscription provides invaluable insights into Chalukya history and achievements. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
 - ◆ It was crafted by the renowned poet Ravikriti, **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - ◆ The inscription is a lyrical tribute to the Chalukya dynasty, particularly King Pulakesin II, lauded as the embodiment of truth (Sathyasraya). **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- ◆ The inscription chronicles the Chalukya dynasty's triumphs over adversaries, including the renowned defeat of Harshavardhana.

3.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Pandavula Konda (Pandavula Gutta) is a geological marvel situated in the **Jayashankar Bhupalpally district of Telangana**.
- Pandavula Gutta is rich in terms of rock shelters, and habitation from **the Mesolithic period (about 10,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C.) to mediaeval times. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Pandavula Gutta boasts **Palaeolithic (500,000 BCE–10,000 BCE)** cave paintings offering a glimpse into prehistoric life.
- **The Geological Survey of India (GSI)** declares geo-heritage sites/**national geological monuments** for protection and maintenance.
 - ◆ GSI is a scientific agency that was founded in 1851 to find **coal deposits for the Railways**. The GSI is **headquartered in Kolkata**, and is an attached office to the **Ministry of Mines**. Its main functions include creating and updating national geoscientific information, and assessing mineral resources. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

4.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Gulaal Gota is a **small ball made of lac**, filled with dry gulaal, and weighs around 20 grams when filled. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ Lac is a resinous substance that is secreted by certain insects. The female scale insect is one of the sources of lac.
 - To produce 1 kg of lac resin, around 300,000 insects are killed. The lac insects also yield resin, lac dye and lac wax.
 - ◆ It is used in various applications, including the production of lac bangles.
- The process of making Gulaal Gotas involves **boiling lac in water** to make it flexible, shaping it, adding colour, heating it, and then blowing it into a spherical shape with the help of a blower called "phunkni".
- Lac, the primary raw material for Gulaal Gota, is sourced from Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

- ◆ Gulaal Gotas are made by Muslim lac makers, known as **Manihaars**, in Jaipur, who learned lac-making from Hindu lac makers in Bagru, a town near Jaipur.

5.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The Gurmukhi script was developed from the **Śāradā script**, standardised and used by the second **Sikh guru, Guru Angad**. The Śāradā script is part of the **Brahmic family of scripts. Hence, Statement-I is not correct.**
- In a move to empower the **Sikh community**, on the occasion of **Sikh New Year**, the Union Minister of Minority Affairs launched a comprehensive skill development, leadership, and entrepreneurship promotion program.
- The program is part of the "**Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas**" initiative under the **Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) Scheme** through the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC), which is a Statutory Body established for the welfare of the Sikh community.
 - ◆ It targets 10,000 youth and women for **modern skills training in employment-oriented job roles**, promotes **Sikh artisans**, fosters women's leadership and entrepreneurship, and provides education for school dropouts. **Hence, statement II is correct.**
- **Hence, Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.**

6.

Ans: D

Exp:

- The traditional **crochet lace craft** of Narasapur in **Andhra Pradesh** receives a Geographical Indications (GI) tag to preserve its unique identity amidst competition from machine-made lace from China. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- Similarly, **Majuli masks** and manuscript painting in **Assam** gain GI recognition, enhancing their cultural significance and safeguarding against decline. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Patan Patola** of Gujarat has also received the GI Tag in the past. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

7.

Ans: C

Exp:

'Maratha Military Landscapes':

- The 'Maratha Military Landscapes' is a network of **12 forts** and fortifications that represent the extraordinary military system and strategy of the Maratha rulers in the 17th-19th centuries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Maratha Military Landscapes of India are included in the **Tentative List of World Heritage sites** in 2021. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

8.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Kalari Payat (Kalaripayattu) meaning '**Battleground**' or '**Gymnasium**'- (**Kalari**), '**Method**' or '**Art**' - (**Payatt**), also known as Kalari, is an Indian martial art that originated in **Kerala during the 3rd century BC to the 2nd century AD**. It is now practised in Kerala and in some parts of Tamil Nadu. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Kalaripayattu, a **personal combat training system** includes exercises to develop sharp reflexes for unarmed combat and skilful fighting using sticks, daggers, knives, spears, swords, shields, etc. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

9.

Ans: B

Exp:

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.**

10.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Magh Bihu**, also called **Bhogali Bihu** or **Maghor Bihu**, is a festival of **harvest** celebrated in the **state of Assam**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- Bihu's history dates back to ancient times (3500 BC) when people offered **fire sacrifices** to improve their **harvest**.
- The **Dimasa Kacharis tribe** is recognized as the **earliest ancestors** associated with the festival.
- The festival falls in the **month of January** and marks the end of the **harvesting season**. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

11.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 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 **Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, Telangana**.
- Medaram Jathara commemorates the **bravery of Sammakka and Saramma**, 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).

12.

Ans: C

Exp:

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti is celebrated on **19th February** every year.

- **Shivaji Maharaj:**
 - ◆ **Chhatrapati Shivaji**, the **founder of the Maratha Empire**, was born on **19th February 1630** at the **Shivneri Fort** in the Junnar district of present-day Maharashtra.
 - ◆ He was born to **Shahaji Bhosale and Jijabai**.
 - ◆ He introduced the collection of two taxes called the **Chauth and Sardeshmukhi**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- ◆ He abolished the **Jagirdari System** and replaced it with the **Ryotwari System**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- ◆ He took on the titles of **Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

13.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 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**.

14.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Yakshagana is a dance-drama **performance unique to Karnataka**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It traditionally featured men portraying all roles. But, **women are now part of these troupes**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- Key elements include episodic stories from Hindu epics like **Ramayana or Mahabharata**.
 - ◆ Musical instruments like **Chande, Harmonium, Maddale, Taala**, and flute accompany these performances.
- Various renowned troupes such as **Saligrama Mela, Dharmasthala Mela, and Mandarthi Mela** showcase Yakshagana throughout the year.

15.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Bhil are one of the largest tribal groups, living in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan (**but not Odisha**). Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
 - ◆ The name is derived from the word 'billu', which means bow.
- The **Bhil are known to be excellent archers** coupled with deep knowledge about their local geography.
 - ◆ Traditionally, experts in guerrilla warfare, most of them today are farmers and agricultural labourers. **They are also skilled sculptors**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.

16.

Ans: B

Exp:

- 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**.

17.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Gangasagar Mela, which takes place during Makar Sankranti (mid-January), is said to be India's second largest pilgrimage gathering after the Kumbh Mela. Hence, **Statement 1 is not correct**.
- This annual pilgrimage draws millions to Sagar Island at the confluence of the Ganges and Bay of Bengal and commemorates the legendary King Bhagirath's descent of the Ganges to Earth. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct**.

- The West Bengal government is demanding elevating the Mela to national status which would bring increased central funding and infrastructure development, potentially boosting tourism and economic activity in West Bengal. Hence, Statement 3 is not correct.

18.

Ans: B

Exp:

Nagara Style of Temple Architecture:

- The Nagara style of temple architecture emerged sometime in the 5th century CE, during the late Gupta period, in northern India. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
 - ◆ It is seen in juxtaposition with the Dravida style of southern India, which too emerged in the same period.
- Nagara temples are built on a raised plinth, with the Garbha Griha (sanctum sanctorum) — where the idol of the deity rests — the most sacred part of the temple. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- A typical Nagara-style temple also comprises a circumambulatory passage around the garbha griha, and one or more mandapas (halls) on the same axis as it. Elaborate murals and reliefs often adorn its walls. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

19.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Madhika is a language with no script and is a blend of Telugu, Tulu, Kannada, and Malayalam. Despite sounding similar to Kannada, it can bewilder listeners due to its diverse linguistic influences. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Madhika is largely influenced by Havyaka Kannada, an old form of Kannada.
- The neglect of Madhika is attributed to the social stigma associated with the Chakaliya community. They were considered untouchables. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Due to the lack of documentation (no script) and the passing of older speakers, there is a significant risk that Madhika may not survive beyond individuals.

20.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes:
 - ◆ They are also known as 'Vimukt Jatis'. These communities are among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ De-notified communities, once labelled as 'born criminals' during British rule under laws like the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871.
 - They were officially de-notified by the Indian Government in 1952. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
 - ◆ In India, roughly 10% of the population is composed of NTs, SNTs, and DNTs Communities. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

21.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Five Modes of Nagara Style of Temple Architecture:
 - ◆ Valabhi:
 - This mode begins as a masonry rendering of the barrel-roofed wooden structure, either simple or with aisles, familiar through chaitya halls (prayer halls, most associated with Buddhist shrines). It is a formalization of multi-eave towers, often with a piling up of slabs.
 - ◆ Phamsana:
 - The Phamsana mode is characterized by a shikhara that is a formalization of multi-eave towers and involves a piling up of slabs. It is associated with the Early Nagara Style and represents a progression from the Valabhi mode.
 - ◆ Latina:
 - The Latina is a shikhara that is a single, slightly curved tower with four sides of equal length. It emerged in the Gupta heartland, was complete with curvature by the early seventh century, and spread across the entire breadth of northern India. For three centuries, it was considered the peak of Nagara temple architecture.
 - ◆ Shekhari:
 - The Shekhari mode features a shikhara with attached sub-spires or spirelets echoing the main shape. These sub-spires may run up most of the face of the shikhara and can be of more than one size.

◆ **Bhumija:**

- The Bhumija mode involves miniature spires arranged in horizontal and vertical rows, creating a **grid-like effect on each face of the shikhara**. The actual shikhara often approaches a **pyramidal shape**, with the curve of the Latina less visible. **This style emerged from composite Latinas in the tenth century onwards.**

- Hence, option C is correct.

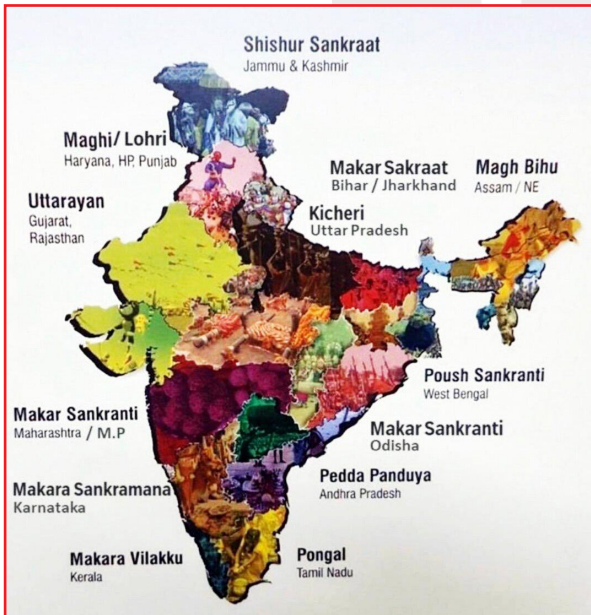
22.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Makar Sankranti:**

- ◆ Makar Sankranti denotes the **entry of the sun into the zodiac sign of Makara** (Capricorn) as it travels on its celestial path.
- ◆ The day marks the **onset of summer** and the six-month auspicious period for Hindus known as Uttarayan – **the northward movement of the sun.**
 - As a part of the official celebration of ‘Uttarayan’, the **Gujarat** government has been hosting the **International Kite Festival since 1989.** Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.



- **Bihu:**

- ◆ It is celebrated when the annual harvest takes place in **Assam**. People celebrate Magh Bihu/

Bhogali Bihu to mark the beginning of the Assamese new year. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.

- **Pongal:**

- ◆ The word Pongal means ‘**overflow**’ or ‘**boiling over**’.
- ◆ **Tamilians** celebrate this occasion by making traditional designs known as kolams in their homes with rice powder. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

23.

Ans: C

Exp:

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.

24.

Ans: (b)

Exp:

- The new logo features a colourful image of **Dhanvantri**, an avatar of Lord Vishnu who is considered the **god of Ayurveda in Hindu mythology**. The new logo also replaces the word ‘India’ with ‘Bharat’, and does not include the **national emblem**. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Dhanvantri is revered as the **deity associated with Ayurveda**, the **traditional system of medicine in Hinduism**. Dhanvantri symbolizes **healing, well-being, and the restoration of health**. Typically depicted with four hands, carrying medicinal herbs and the sacred pot, Dhanvantri is an iconic figure in the realm of health and medicine in Hindu culture. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

25.

Ans: C

Exp:

- **Kolattam** is a folk dance from the states of **Andhra Pradesh** and **Tamil Nadu**. It is part of a religious offering, where **women dancers pay homage to the temple Goddess** in many regions of Andhra Pradesh. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.

- **Ponung is the harvest dance** performed by the **Adi tribal community** of **Arunachal Pradesh**. It is **danced at the festival** held just before the harvesting operations. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- The **Bagurumba is a traditional dance** of the **indigenous Boro people** living in the **State of Assam** and North East India. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

26.

Ans: B

Exp:

- Mithila has a rich and ancient history, dating back to the Vedic period (1500-500 BCE) when it was one of the 16 Mahajanapadas of India. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It is bounded by the Himalayas in the north, the Ganges in the south, the **Gandaki River in the west**, and the **Mahananda River in the east**. **Hence, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- It is also known as Mahla and mentioned in revenue records of the United Provinces of Bihar, Bengal, and Orissa. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
 - ◆ Mithila, also known as **Tirhut or Tirabhukti**, is a historically and culturally significant region encompassing Darbhanga, Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Supaul, Saharsa, Madhepura, and adjacent areas of Bihar and Nepal.

27.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Chavittu Natakam, a colourful and vigorous theatre form**, is considered to be a folk art form noted for its **attractive make-up of characters**, their elaborate costumes, detailed gesture, and well-defined body movements.

- It is believed that the **art form flourished at Kodungalloor in Kerala** with the spread of Christianity. The Portuguese are supposed to have introduced this art form in Kerala.
- **Hence, option B is correct.**

28.

Ans: C

Exp:

- Mudi yettu is a ritual theater and dance drama of Kerala that enacts the mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The ritual is a part of the bhagavathi or bhadrakali cult and is performed in Bhagavati temples, usually between February and May, after the harvest. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The performance is done by members of the Marar and Kuruppu communities, who paint their faces and wear elaborate costumes and headgears.
 - ◆ It involves various characters such as Shiva, Narada, Darika, Kali, Daanavendra, Koyichaadar and Kooli .
- The ritual ends with a victorious Kali entering the stage holding the head of Darika, followed by a song of praise to Shiva.
- Mudi yettu is a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and the second art form from Kerala after Kutiyattam. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

29.

Ans: C

Exp:

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.**

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. Mudi yettu, 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

- 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:**

30.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The Prime Minister of India paid tributes to tribal leader **Birsa Munda** on his **birth anniversary(15th November 1875)** belonging to the **Munda tribe** in the **Chotanagpur Plateau area**.
- Birsa Munda encouraged tribals to **resist colonial laws and refuse to pay rent**. He started the **Ulgulan movement** involving **guerrilla warfare**, challenging religious practices, and social changes. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In response to the British colonial presence and missionaries' attempts to convert tribals to Christianity, **Birsa Munda initiated the 'Birsait' faith**, emerging as a **tribal leader** and leading resistance against British conversion efforts. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

31.

Ans: A

Exp:

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas:

- **Government of India** has declared **15th November** as **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** dedicated to the memory of **brave tribal freedom fighters**. The declaration was done during **2021**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The date is the **birth anniversary of Sri Birsa Munda** who is revered as **Bhagwan** by tribal communities across the country. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Birsa Munda fought bravely against the country against the exploitative system of the British colonial system and **spearheaded movement against British oppression** giving a call for **'Ulgulan' (Revolution)**.
- The declaration **acknowledges the glorious history and cultural heritage of tribal communities**. The day will be **celebrated every year** and would recognize the efforts of the tribals for preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of Indian values of valour, hospitality and national pride.

- **Manipur-born Naga chieftain Rani Gaidinliu** was renowned for **leading an armed uprising against the British**. Gaidinliu joined the **Heraka movement in 1927** with the intention of **ending British control** and bringing about **Naga self-government**.

32.

Ans: C

Exp:

Santali Language

- Santhali language is a Munda language spoken primarily in the east-central Indian states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Orissa. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In 2003, the **92nd Constitutional Amendment Act added Santhali to Schedule VIII to the Constitution of India**, which lists the official languages of India, along with the Bodo, Dogri and Maithili languages. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

33.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **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.**

34.

Ans: C

Exp:

Guru Tegh Bahadur:

- **Guru Tegh Bahadur** was born in Amritsar on **21st April 1621** to **Mata Nanki** and **Guru Hargobind**, the **sixth Sikh guru**, who raised an army against the Mughals and introduced the concept of warrior saints.
- His writings are housed in the **sacred text, 'Guru Granth Sahib,' in the form of 116 poetic hymns**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In the year **1675**, **Guru Tegh Bahadur** was **executed in Delhi** under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**
- He was also an **avid traveler** and played a key role in setting up preaching centers throughout the Indian subcontinent.

- During one such mission, he **founded the town of Chak-Nanki in Punjab**, which later became a part of Punjab's Anandpur Sahib.

35.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **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.**

36.

Ans: B

Exp:

State	Tribes
Arunachal Pradesh	Adis, Nyishi, Apatani, Tagin, Mismi , Khampti, Wancho, Tangsha, Monpa, etc.
Assam	Barmans, Bodos (Bodokacharis), Deori, Hojai, Sonowal Kacharis, Miri (Mising), Dimasa, Hajong, etc.
Nagaland	Angami, Ao, Chang, Chiru, Phom, Rengma, Sangtam, Sema, Zeliang , etc. Hence option (b) is correct.

37.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The **Toto language**, spoken by only 1,600 people in **West Bengal**, is on the brink of extinction. **Hence, option C is correct.**
- However, a **trilingual dictionary (Toto-Bengali-English)** called "**Toto Shabda Sangraha**" is set to be released in Kolkata on 7th October 2023, to help preserve the toto language.
- **Toto Language:**
 - ◆ The Toto language is a **Sino-Tibetan language** spoken by the **Toto tribal people** in parts of West Bengal bordering Bhutan.

- ◆ **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** lists it as a **critically endangered language.**

- The Toto language is **primarily spoken orally** and even though prominent community member **Padma Shri-decorated Dhaniram Toto developed a script as recently as in 2015**, most people either **write it in Bengali script or write in Bengali language.**

38.

Ans: B

Exp:

Miniature Painting:

- Miniature paintings are colorful handmade paintings very small in size. One of the outstanding features of these paintings is the intricate brushwork which contributes to their unique identity.
- The colors used in the paintings are derived from various natural sources like vegetables, indigo, precious stones, gold and silver.
- They were often painted for either books or albums, on perishable material including paper, palm leaves and cloth. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- ◆ The **Palas of Bengal are considered the pioneers of miniature painting in India.** Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

39.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Jagannath temple located in Puri, Odisha is a sacred temple devoted to Lord Jagannath along with his brother Lord Balabhadra and sister Devi Subhadra.
 - ◆ It was constructed by a famous king of Ganga Dynasty Ananta Varman Chodaganga Deva dating back to the 12th century.
 - ◆ It is known as the "White Pagoda" and one of the four pilgrimage sites of Char Dham Pilgrimage.
- It is an outstanding example of Kalinga architecture, **featuring distinctive curvilinear towers, intricate carvings, and ornate sculptures.** Hence, statement 1 is correct.
 - ◆ It is enclosed by a high wall with four gates, each facing a cardinal direction.
- It is also called as '**Yamanika Tirtha**' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the **power of 'Yama', the god of death, has been nullified in Puri** due to the presence of Lord Jagannath. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Associated Major Festivals: Snana Yatra, Netrotsava, Rath Yatra, Sayan Ekadasi.** Hence, statement 3 is correct.

- ◆ The tradition of miniature paintings was further taken forward by the artists of various Rajasthani schools of painting, including the Kishangarh, Bundi Jaipur, Mewar and Marwar.
- ◆ **Pala School:** The earliest Indian miniature paintings are related to the Pala School dating back to the 8th century A.D.
 - This school of painting emphasized on the symbolic use of colors and the **themes were often taken from the Buddhist tantric rituals.** Hence, statement 3 is correct.

40.

Ans: B

Exp:

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj:

- **Birth:**
 - ◆ Born on 19th February 1630, at Shivneri Fort in Pune District, Maharashtra, he was the son of **Shahaji Bhonsle**, a Maratha general with jagirs in Pune and Supe under the Bijapur Sultanate, and **Jijabai**, a deeply religious woman who greatly influenced him.
- **Titles:**
 - ◆ He took on the titles of **Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak.** Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Administration under Shivaji:**
 - ◆ **Central Administration:**
 - He established a centralised administration with a council of eight ministers (Ashtapradhan) who were directly responsible to him and advised him on various matters of the state.
 - The Peshwa, also known as the Mukhya Pradhan, originally headed the advisory council of Raja Shivaji.
 - ◆ **Provincial administration:**
 - Shivaji divided his kingdom into four provinces. Each province was further divided into districts and villages. The village was the basic unit of administration and was governed by a Deshpande or Patel with the help of a village panchayat.
 - Like the centre, there was a committee or council of eight ministers with Sar-i- 'Karkun' or the 'prantpati' (Head of the province).
 - ◆ **Revenue Administration:**
 - ◆ Shivaji abolished the **Jagirdari System and replaced it with the Ryotwari System**, and made

changes in the position of hereditary revenue officials which were popularly known as Deshmukhs, Deshpande, Patils, and Kulkarnis. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- ◆ Shivaji strictly supervised the Mirasdars who had hereditary rights in land.
- ◆ The revenue system was patterned on the Kathi system of Malik Amber in which every piece of land was measured by Rod or Kathi.
- ◆ Chauth and Sardeshmukhi were other sources of income.
- **Military Administration:**
 - Shivaji established an efficient army, **paying ordinary soldiers in cash and high-ranking officials through jagir grants (Saranjam).** Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- His military included infantry (Mavali foot soldiers), cavalry (horse riders and equipment handlers), and a navy.
- **Death:**
 - ◆ Shivaji passed away in Raigad in 1680 and was cremated at the Raigad Fort. Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti is celebrated each year on 19th February to remember and praise his courage, warfare tactics and administrative skills.

41.

Ans: C

Exp:

Baiga Tribe:

- The Baiga (means sorcerers) **tribe mainly lives in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.** Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Traditionally, the Baiga lived a semi-nomadic life and practised slash and burn cultivation. Now, they are mainly dependent on **minor forest produce** for their livelihood.
 - ◆ Bamboo is the primary resource.
- **Tattooing is an integral part of Baiga culture**, every age and body part has a specific tattoo reserved for the occasion. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

42.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **Bathukamma Festival** is the **nine-day-long annual festival of flowers Bathukamma began** on a colorful note across the **State of Telangana.** Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

- It is a **colorful floral festival** celebrated by **women** with **exotic local flowers**.
- The festival coincides with the **monsoon**, bringing **water to ponds** and **wildflowers** in **vibrant colors**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Local flowers like **'gunuka,' 'tangedu,' 'banti,'** and **'nandi-varadhanam'** are abundantly used.
- The festival begins a **week before** the **'Saddula Bathukamma'** (the grand finale of the Bathukamma festival) which falls **two days before Dussehra**. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct**.

43.

Ans: A

Exp:

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

- At the meeting, following **robust programmes of AYUSH were highlighted**:
 - ◆ **Ayurvediya**: 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**.

44.

Ans: A

Exp:

- The **concept of Shiva** as a **dancer**, known as **Nataraja**, began to take shape around the **5th century AD**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The **Nataraja sculpture** at **Bharat Mandapam** is made using the **lost wax method**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.
- The design of this **Nataraja statue** draws inspiration from three revered **Nataraja idols**: the **Thillai Nataraja Temple** in **Chidambaram**, the **Uma Maheswarar Temple** in **Konerirajapuram**, and the **Brihadeeswara (Big) Temple**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, in **Thanjavur**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

45.

Ans: C

Exp:

- The Konark Sun Temple is a **13th-century CE Sun temple at Konark**, on the coastline in Puri district, Odisha, India. The temple is attributed to **King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty about 1250 CE**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The Sun Temple is the **culmination of Kalinga temple architecture**. Dedicated to the **Hindu Sun God Surya**, the temple complex has the appearance of a 100-foot-high chariot with 24 wheels and 7 horses, **all carved from stone**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The temple is also a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and a major pilgrimage site for Hindus and is depicted on the **reverse side of the Indian currency note of 10 rupees**. The Sun Temple is the **culmination of Kalinga temple architecture**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

46.

Ans: C

Exp:

- 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.

47.

Ans: C

Exp:

Hoysala Dynasty

- **Origin and Rise:** The Hoysalas governed areas spanning Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for over three centuries, with Sala serving as the dynasty's founder.
 - ◆ The first kings came from the hills northwest of Dorasamudra (present-day Halebid), which became their capital in about 1060.
- **Political History:** The Hoysalas were feudatories of the Chalukyas of Kalyana, also known as the Western Chalukya Empire. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The most notable rulers of the Hoysala dynasty were Vishnuvardhana, Veera Ballala II, and Veera Ballala III. Vishnuvardhana (also known as Bittideva) was the greatest king of the Hoysala dynasty.
- **Architecture:** The Hoysala Temples were **built during the 12th and 13th centuries CE**, showcasing the unique architectural and artistic brilliance of the Hoysala dynasty.
 - ◆ **Hoysala architecture** is known for its distinctive blend of **Bhumija style prevalent in Central India**, the **Nagara traditions of northern and western India**, and the **Karnataka Dravida** modes favored by the **Kalyani Chalukyas**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

48.

Ans: A

Exp:

- **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.**

49.

Ans: C

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 - ◆ **Hoysala architecture** is known for its distinctive blend of **Bhumija style prevalent in Central India**, the **Nagara traditions of northern and western India**, and the **Karnataka Dravida** modes favored by the **Kalyani Chalukyas**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
 - ◆ **Key Elements:**
 - Mantapa
 - Vimana
 - Sculpture
- Hence, statement 3 is correct.

50.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Poila Baisakh** is an important festival celebrated by **Bengali communities** across **West Bengal, Tripura, Jharkhand, and Assam**. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **West Bengal Legislative Assembly** decided to observe the '**Poila Baisakh**,' the **first day of the Bengali calendar**, as '**Bangla Dibas**' or **West Bengal Foundation Day**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Out of India, **Bangladesh** is the nation where the **Poila Baisakh** is celebrated every year. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

51.

Ans: B

Exp:

- The **fifth Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan**, moved the capital of his empire from **Agra** to a newly constructed city in **Delhi** in **1638**. He called this **new capital city Shahjahanabad**.
- The **Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan** laid the foundations of **Red Fort or Lal Qila**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- This iconic structure was enlisted as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **2007**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **Red Fort showcases a fusion of diverse architectural styles**, including **Islamic, Hindi, Timurid, and Persian influences**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

52.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Nataraja (Lord of the Dance)**, the **Hindu god Shiva** in his form as the **cosmic dancer**, is represented in **metal or stone** in many **Shaivite temples**, particularly in **South India**.
- **Nataraja Statue** is an important piece of **Chola sculpture**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.
- The **lower right hand** is raised in the gesture of **Abhay mudra** signifying benediction and reassuring the devotee to **not be afraid**.
- The **upper right-hand** holds the **drum**, which signifies the **sound of creation**. Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
- The **lower left-hand** points towards the **upraised foot** and indicates the **path of salvation**.
- The **upper left-hand** holds the **eternal fire**, which represents the **destruction**. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

53.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Sanskrit is an Indo-Aryan language, considered to be one of the oldest languages.
 - ◆ Sanskrit is among the 22 official languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. It is also included among 6 Classical languages besides Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.
- It is divided into two parts which are **Vedic and classical**.
 - ◆ **Vedic Sanskrit is the older** and more archaic form of Sanskrit, which is **attested in the Rig Veda, the Upanishads, and the Puranas**. Hence, **statement 1 is not correct**.

◆ Classical Sanskrit is the later and more standardised form of Sanskrit, which is based on the grammar of Panini and used in literature, philosophy, science, and art.

- **World Sanskrit Day or Vishwa Sanskrit Diwas** is celebrated on **Purnima Tithi (Full moon) of Shravana month every year**. Hence, **statement 2 is not correct**.

◆ It serves as a tribute to the birth anniversary of Paṇini, a distinguished Sanskrit scholar and grammarian.

◆ The first World Sanskrit Day was celebrated in 1969.

◆ In 2023, the celebration of World Sanskrit Day took place on 31st August.

- Promotion of Sanskrit by the Central Government:

◆ The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 laid an ambitious path for “mainstreaming” the language. Sanskrit is to be offered in schools, including as one of the language options in the three-language formula, as well as in higher education.

◆ The government has established the **Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan in Delhi** as a **nodal authority** to promote Sanskrit. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.

54.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Aadi Perukku**, also known as **Pathinettam Perukku**, is a significant festival celebrated in **Tamil Nadu** to express gratitude for the **monsoon season** and the life-sustaining properties of water.
- Falling on the **18th day of the Aadi month in the Tamil Calendar**, this festival marks the **onset of the monsoon season**, which brings increased water levels to the rivers and benefits sowing and vegetation.
- During Aadi Perukku, people gather near the banks of rivers, especially the **Kaveri River**, to perform rituals and offer prayers.
- Hence, option B is correct.

55.

Ans: D

Exp:

Historical Significance of Sengol:

- The **Sengol** is profound in meaning, derived from the Tamil word “**Semmai**”, it means “**Righteousness**”. It was made of **gold or silver** and was often decorated with precious stones.

- ◆ A Sengol sceptre was carried by **emperors on ceremonial occasions and used to represent their authority. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It is **associated with the Chola Empire**, one of the longest-ruling and most influential dynasties in South India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
 - ◆ The Cholas ruled over parts of **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, and Sri Lanka** from the 9th to 13th century CE.
 - ◆ They were known for their **military prowess, maritime trade, administrative efficiency, cultural patronage, and temple architecture.**
- The Cholas had a tradition of **handing over the Sengol sceptre from one king to another as a mark of succession and legitimacy.**
 - ◆ The ceremony was usually performed by a **high priest or a guru who blessed** the new king and conferred him with the Sengol. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

56.

Ans: A

Exp:

Malcha Mahal

- The Delhi Tourism Department has launched its much awaited **'haunted walks'**, for which the **Malcha Mahal** was chosen as the first destination of the journey.
- **The Malcha Mahal or Wilahat Mahal is a Tughlaq-era hunting lodge, built by Feroz Shah Tughlaq in the 14th century.** It is named after Malcha Marg, which houses the elite of the city, including diplomats, businessmen and authors. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- **Feroz Shah Tughlaq was a Sultan of Delhi from the Tughlaq dynasty who ruled from 1351 to 1388.** He is more famous for commissioning buildings of architectural shapes that were seen as unconventional during his era. He was also considered the father of **the irrigation system in India by the British for channelizing rivers to provide water through canals** to a large part of the country.

57.

Ans:(b)

Exp:

- The inscription, dating back to the reign of **Parantaka I (907-953 AD)** (not Raja Raja Chola), provides a detailed description of how the village's self-governance functioned. **Hence Statement 1 is not correct.**

- The **Sabha was exclusively composed of brahmins** and the inscription detailed the circumstances in which members could be removed. **Hence Statement 2 is correct.**
- Sabha membership was restricted to a **tiny subsection of land-owning brahmins, and there were no true elections.**
- Members were **chosen from an eligible pool of candidates through a draw of lots**
- The inscription also described the various committees within the sabha, their responsibilities, and their limitations.
- These committee assignments lasted for 360 days, after which members had to retire.

58.

Ans: A

Exp:

- Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam is a festival that aims to promote the cultural diversity and heritage of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is being held at multiple locations in Gujarat, including Somnath, Dwarka, and the Statue of Unity at Kevadia. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

59.

Ans: A

Exp:

Thirunelli Temple:

- **About:**
 - ◆ Thirunelli Temple, also known as Amalaka or Sidha Temple, is a Vishnu temple in Wayanad district, Kerala.
 - ◆ The temple gets its name from an **idol of Lord Vishnu resting on an amla tree** in a valley, which was discovered by **Lord Brahma while circling the globe. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Architecture of Thirunelli Temple:**
 - ◆ The Thirunelli temple's **architecture** follows the **traditional Kerala style.** The temple has an inner sanctorum, surrounded by a tile roof structure, and an open courtyard around it. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

60.

Ans: D

Exp:

Basava Jayanthi:

- Basava Jayanthi is celebrated on the third of the bright half or Shukla paksha during the month of Vaisakha by



Lingayats in the State of Karnataka. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- It is a festival celebrated on the birth anniversary of the philosopher, statesman, social reformer, and saint in the Shaivism Bhakti movement during the 12th century. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Basaveshwara introduced the practice of wearing the Ishtalinga necklace, which symbolizes Lord Shiva and is worn by all Lingayats.
- The Anubhava Mantapa established by Basava laid down the foundation of social democracy. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

61.

Ans: A

Exp:

Who was Ramanujacharya ?

- Born in 1017 in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu, Ramanujacharya is revered as a Vedic philosopher and social reformer.
- He traveled across India, advocating equality and social justice.
- He revived the Bhakti movement, and his preachings inspired other Bhakti schools of thought.
- He is famous as the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedānta.
 - ◆ VishishtAdvaita (literally “Advaita with uniqueness; qualifications”) is a non-dualistic school of Vedanta philosophy.
- Hence, option d is the correct answer.

62.

Ans: D

Exp:

- Puthandu also known as Puthuvarudam or Tamil New Year, is the first day of the year on the Tamil calendar and traditionally celebrated as a festival. The festival date is set with the solar cycle of the lunisolar Hindu calendar, as the first day of the Tamil month Chithirai.
- It therefore falls on or about 14th April every year on the Gregorian calendar. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Naba Barsha is the celebration of the new year in West Bengal as per the Bengali Calendar.
- It is also popularly known as the PoilaBaisakh which literally translates to first Baisakhi (a month in the lunisolar calendar of the Bengalis). Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Bohag Bihu or Rongali Bihu also called Xaat Bihu (seven Bihus) is a traditional aboriginal ethnic festival

celebrated in the state of Assam and other parts of northeastern India by the indigenous ethnic groups of Assam.

- It marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year. It usually falls in the 2nd week of April, historically signifying the time of harvest. Hence, statement 3 is correct

63.

Ans: C

Exp:

Adi Community

- The Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh is believed to have come from southern China in the 16th century. They are the Tibeto-Burman language-speaking population.
- They reside in the far north inhabiting East Siang and Lower Dibang Valley districts of Arunachal Pradesh. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Adis are experts at making cane and bamboo items. Solung (a harvesting festival where animal sacrifices and rituals are performed), Aran (a hunting festival where all the male members of the family go for hunting) are also among the major festivals of the Adi tribes and Siang Unying (to honour the season of cultivation, the beginning of the Adi community's new year, the arrival of spring seasons). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

64.

Ans. C

- Bumchu is an annual holy water vase ritual commemorated in Tashiding Monastery, one of the most sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites, located on a hilltop overlooking the Rangeet River in Sikkim. Bumchu means “pot of sacred water” in Tibetan.
- Hojagiri dance is one of the famous dances of Tripura, and not Nagaland. The dance is performed on the occasion of Hojagiri Festivals or Laxmi puja.
- Lai Haraoba is the earliest form of dance which forms the basis of all stylised dances in Manipur. Literally meaning - the merrymaking of the gods, it is performed as a ceremonial offering of song and dance.
- Recently, the Rock-cut Sculptures of Unakoti in Tripura was added to the tentative list of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites. It is Shaivite pilgrimage and dates back to 7th or 9th century if not earlier. Unakoti means one less than a crore and it is said that these many rock cut carvings are available here

65.

Ans: C

Exp:

Mudra in Buddhism:

- In **Buddhism, mudras are hand gestures or positions that are used during meditation** and other practices to help focus the mind, channel energy, and deepen one's connection to the teachings. Here are some of the mudras commonly used in Buddhism:
 - ◆ **Dhyana Mudra:** In this mudra, the hands are placed on the lap, with the right hand on top of the left, and the thumbs touching.
 - This mudra symbolizes meditation, concentration, and inner peace.
 - ◆ **Anjali Mudra:** This is the most common mudra used in Buddhism, and it involves pressing the palms together in front of the chest, with the fingers pointing upwards.
 - It represents **respect, greeting, and gratitude. Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
 - ◆ **Vitarka Mudra:** This mudra is also known as the "teaching mudra" or "gesture of discussion," and it involves holding the right hand up, with the thumb and index finger touching to form a circle. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
 - It represents the transmission of knowledge and the communication of the Buddha's teachings.
 - ◆ **Varada Mudra:** In this mudra, the right hand is extended downwards, with the palm facing outwards.
 - It represents generosity, compassion, and the granting of wishes.
 - ◆ **Abhaya Mudra:** This mudra involves raising the right hand up to shoulder height, with the palm facing outwards.
 - It represents fearlessness, protection, and the dispelling of negativity.
 - ◆ **Bhumisparsha Mudra:** This mudra involves touching the ground with the fingertips of the right hand, while the left hand rests on the lap.
 - It represents the moment of the Buddha's enlightenment, and the gesture symbolizes the earth witnessing his attainment of enlightenment.
 - ◆ **Uttarabodhi Mudra:** In this the hands are held in front of the chest with the fingers of the left hand pointing upward and the fingers of the right hand pointing downward. The thumbs are then placed together in the center, creating a triangle shape.
 - This mudra represents the union of wisdom and compassion, the balance of masculine and feminine energies, and the attainment of enlightenment through the integration of all aspects of thyself.
 - ◆ **Dharma Chakra Mudra:** In this the hands are held in front of the chest with the thumb and index finger of each hand forming a circle. The remaining three fingers of each hand are extended upwards, representing the Three Jewels of Buddhism: **the Buddha, the Dharma (his teachings), and the Sangha (the community of practitioners).** The circle made by the thumb and index finger represents the wheel of the Dharma, which
 - This mudra represents the constant cycle of birth, death, and rebirth, and the Buddha's teachings as the means to break free from this cycle.
 - ◆ **Karana Mudra:** In this the left hand is brought up to the heart, palm facing forward. The index and little fingers point straight upward. while the other three fingers are curled towards the palm.
 - This gesture is often seen in **depictions of the Buddha or bodhisattvas**, as a symbol of protection and dispelling of negativity. The index finger is said to represent the energy of wisdom and the ability to overcome obstacles. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
 - ◆ **Jnana Mudra:** In this the **index finger and thumb are brought together to form a circle, while the other three fingers are extended outwards.**
 - This gesture represents the unity of individual consciousness with the universal consciousness, and the connection between the practitioner and the teachings of the Buddha.
 - ◆ **Tarjani Mudra:** In this, the index finger is extended upward, while the other fingers are curled towards the palm. Tarjani Mudra, also known as the "threatening gesture". **Hence, pair 4 is not correctly matched.**
 - It is used as a symbol of warning or protection against evil forces or harmful influences.

66.

Ans: B

Exp:

- **Ugadi is a Hindu festival that marks the New Year's Day for the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka in India.** The festival is celebrated on the first day of the Hindu lunar calendar. The word "**Ugadi**" is derived from the Sanskrit words "**yuga**" and "**adi**," which mean "**age**" and "**beginning**" respectively. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- Gudi Padwa is a spring-time festival that marks the traditional New Year in Maharashtra. **Gudi is a doll prepared in Maharashtrian homes. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Navreh is the **Kashmiri New Year's Day**, the day is marked by performing various rituals, decorating houses with flowers, preparing traditional dishes, and offering prayers to the deities. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

