

## Phase 1 – Test no 1

### 1. Consider the following statements –

1. In Ancient India, the earliest cities flourished on the banks of Ganga and its tributaries.
2. The fertile region towards the south of Ganga, was called Magadha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Answer- (b)**

**Explanation-**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:-**About 4700 years ago, some of the earliest *cities* flourished on the banks of the river **Indus and its tributaries**. Later, about 2500 years ago, cities developed on the banks of the Ganga and its tributaries, and along the seacoasts.

**Statement 2 is correct:-**In ancient times the area along these rivers to the south of the Ganga was known as Magadha. Its rulers were very powerful, and set up a *large kingdom*. Kingdoms were set up in other parts of the country as well.

Source – Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) - page 3.

### 2. Consider the following statements-

1. Bhimbetka is a prominent Palaeolithic site, because of its natural caves and rock shelters, which protected people against harsh weather.
2. Rock and Cave paintings are important features of the Palaeolithic Culture.
3. Pressure Flaking is a technique used by the hunters to make stone tools and weapons.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer- (d)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct:-**Bhimbetka (in present day Madhya Pradesh). Some sites, known as **habitation sites**, are places where people lived. These include caves and rock shelters such as the one shown here. People chose these natural caves because they provided **shelter** from the **rain, heat and wind**.

**Statement 2 is correct:-**Natural caves and rock shelters are found in the Vindhya and the Deccan plateau. These rock shelters are close to the Narmada valley. Also **Bhimbetka and Kurnool caves** are few **Palaeolithic sites** identified in the Map.

Many of the caves in which these early people lived have **paintings on the walls**. Some of the best examples are from Madhya Pradesh and southern Uttar Pradesh. These paintings show **wild animals**, drawn with great accuracy and skill.

**Statement 3 is correct:-**Stone tools were probably made using two different techniques: The first is called **stone on stone**. The Second one, **Pressure Flaking**-Here the core was placed on a firm surface. The hammer stone was used on a piece of bone or stone that was placed on the core, to remove flakes that could be shaped into tools.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – page 15, 16 and 18.

**3. Consider the following pairs:**

1. Mehrgarh – Pit Houses
2. Burzahom – Rectangular Houses
3. Mehrgarh – Burials with Grave goods

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

**Answer- (d)**

**Explanation-**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** In **Burzahom** (in present-day Kashmir) people built **pit-houses**, which were dug into the ground, with steps leading into them. These may have provided shelter in cold weather. Archaeologists have also found **cooking hearths** both inside and outside the huts.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Findings at the site of **Mehrgarh** (near Bolan pass) include remains of **square or rectangular houses**. Each house had four or more compartments, some of which may have been used for storage. When people die, their relatives and friends generally pay respect to them. People look after them, perhaps in the belief that there is some form of life after death.

**Statement 3 is correct:** **Burial** is one such arrangement. Several burial sites have been found at Mehrgarh. In one instance, the dead person was buried with goats, which were probably meant to serve as food in the next world.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – page 26 and 29.

**4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Neolithic age –**

1. Neolithic Culture represents the beginning of settled life with evidence of farming and domestication of animals.
2. Rice and Cotton was not known to the people of this age.
3. People generally believed in life after death, as inferred from their burial practices.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above.

**Answer- (c)**

**Explanation-**

Neolithic Culture in India, saw varied developments and changes compared to that of the Paleolithic age. The tools were more polished and had finer edges. Also, People began using pots for cooking food, especially grains like **rice, wheat and lentils** that now became an important part of the diet. Besides, they began weaving cloth, using different kinds of materials, for example cotton, that could now be grown. In many areas, men and women still continued to hunt and gather food, and elsewhere people adopted farming and herding slowly, over several thousand years. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Statement 3 is correct:- In Mehrgarh**, one of the earliest Village settlements, Burials with animals are found, which indicate that they are meant to serve as food or companions in the afterlife.  
Source- Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – page 27 and 29.

**5. With reference to the Pre-Harappan Cultures that existed in Northern India, consider the following statements:**

1. Climate played a role in the architecture of the houses in Burzahom.
2. The people of Mehrgarh domesticated animals like cattle, sheep and goats.
3. Mehrgarh has Pit houses which served as shelter homes during cold weather.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer- (a)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct & Statement 3 is incorrect:-**In **Burzahom** (in present-day Kashmir) people built pit-houses which were dug into the ground, with steps leading into them. These may have provided shelter in **cold weather**. Archaeologists have also found cooking hearths both inside and outside the huts, which suggests that, depending on the weather, people could cook food either indoors or outdoors.

**Statement 2 is correct:-**Mehrgarh is one of the earliest villages that we know about. Women and Men learnt to **grow barley, wheat and rear sheep and goats for the first time in this place**. Archaeologists who excavated the site found evidence of many kinds of animal bones from the earliest *levels*. These included **bones** of wild animals such as the **deer and pig**. In later levels, they found more bones of sheep and goat, and in still later levels, cattle bones are most common, suggesting that this was the animal that was generally kept by the people.

Source- Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – page 27 and 28.

**6. With reference to the Harappan Civilization, consider the following statements:**

1. A common feature found in the Harappan Excavations is that the Citadel is found to the west and the Lower town region is found to the east of the cities.
2. The Harappans used copper and bronze for tools, weapons and ornaments.
3. Weights made of chert, was used to weigh precious stones and metals.
4. Gold and Silver were absolutely not known and were not in use.

Which of the statements given above is/are **INCORRECT**?

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

**Answer – (d)**

**Explanation –**

The cities excavated after Harappa, were found in the Punjab and Sind in Pakistan, and in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana in India. Many of these cities were divided into two or more parts. Usually, the part to the west was smaller but higher. Archaeologists describe this as the *citadel*. Generally, the part to the east was larger but lower. This is called the lower town. **Statement 1 is true.**

Most of the things that have been found by archaeologists are made of stone, shell and *metal*, including copper, bronze, gold and silver. Copper and bronze were used to make tools, weapons, ornaments and vessels. Gold and silver were used to make ornaments and vessels. Hence, **Statement 2 is correct and 4 is incorrect.**

**Statement 3 is correct:** Stone weights are carefully and precisely shaped. These were made of chert, a kind of stone. These were probably used to weigh precious stones or metals.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – page 33 and 35.

**7. Consider the following pairs with respect to the sources of raw materials which were available for the people of Indus Valley Civilisation.**

1. Copper – Rajasthan and West Asia
2. Tin – Afghanistan
3. Gold – Karnataka
4. Semi-Precious Stones – Gujarat

Which of the following pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

**Answer – (c)**

**Explanation –**

**All of the above matches are correct:** While some of the raw materials that the Harappans used were available locally, many items such as copper, tin, gold, silver and precious stones had to be brought from distant places. The Harappans probably got **copper** from present-day **Rajasthan**, and even from **Oman** in West Asia. **Tin**, which was mixed with copper to produce bronze, may have been brought from present-day **Afghanistan and Iran**. **Gold** could have come all the way from present-day **Karnataka**, and **semi-precious stones** from present-day **Gujarat, Iran and Afghanistan**.

Source- Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – page 37 and 38.

**8. Consider the following statements-**

1. Sanskrit is part of a family of languages called Indo-European.
2. Most of the languages spoken in India, like Assamese, Telugu and Kannada are also part of this family.
3. Languages from the same family, more often than not, have similar sounding words, due to the sources being same.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



**Answer- (c)**

**Explanation –**

Sanskrit is part of a *family* of languages known as **Indo-European**. Some Indian languages such as Assamese, Gujarati, Hindi, Kashmiri and Sindhi, and many European languages such as English, French, German, Greek, Italian and Spanish belong to this family. They are called a family because they originally had words in common. Hence, **Statements 1 and 3 are correct**. Other languages used in the subcontinent belong to different families. For instance, those used in the north-east belong to the Tibeto-Burman family; **Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam belong to the Dravidian family**; and the languages spoken in Jharkhand and parts of central India belong to the Austro-Asiatic family.

Hence **Statement 2 is incorrect**.

Source- Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – page 44.

**9. With reference to the Rig Veda, consider the following statements:**

1. Rig Veda, mainly contains suktas and hymns as prayers, asking for cattle, children and territorial land.
  2. The Prominent Gods of the Rig Vedic Text were Indra, Agni and Soma.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Answer – (b)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:-**The oldest Veda is the Rigveda, composed about 3500 years ago. The Rigveda includes more than a thousand hymns, called *sukta* or “well-said”. These **hymns** are in **praise of various gods and goddesses**. These hymns were composed by sages (*rishis*).

There are many prayers in the **Rigveda for cattle, children (especially sons), and horses**. Horses were yoked to chariots that were used in battles which were fought to capture cattle. Battles were also fought for land, which was important for pasture, and for growing hardy crops that ripened quickly, such as barley. Some battles were fought for water, and to capture people.

**Statement 2 is correct:-**Three gods are especially important: **Agni**, the god of fire; **Indra**, a warrior god; and **Soma**, a plant from which a special drink was prepared.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 43 and 46.

**10. In the context of Early Vedic society, consider the following statements:**

1. The Rajas were always succeeded by their sons in leading the Jana or the tribe.
2. Dasas and Dasyus were slaves who were captured in war.
3. Battles were fought between Janas for cattle or even water.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer – (b)**

**Explanation –**

There are two groups who are described in terms of their work — **the priests**, sometimes called **brahmins**, who performed various rituals and the **rajas**. These **rajas** were not like the ones, who ruled in the later periods. They did not have capital cities, palaces or armies, nor did they collect taxes. Generally, **sons did not automatically succeed fathers as rajas**. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**

Sometimes, the people who composed the hymns described themselves as **Aryas** And called their opponents **Dasas or Dasyus**. These were people who did not perform sacrifices, and probably spoke different languages. Later, the term **dasa** (and the feminine **dasi**) came to mean **slave**. Slaves were women and men who were often captured in war. They were treated as the property of their owners. **Statement 2 is correct.**

Chariots were used in battles, which were fought to capture cattle. Battles were also fought for land, which was important for pasture, and for growing hardy crops that ripened quickly, such as barley. Some battles were fought for water, and to capture people. **Statement 3 is correct.**

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 46 and 47.

**11. With reference to Megalithic culture, consider the following statements –**

1. The Megalithic Culture started about 3000 years ago and is seen exclusively in South India.
  2. Megalithic Burials had the distinct feature of having various objects along with the dead like pots, iron weapons and gold ornaments.
  3. In other parts of the country, in places like Inamgaon, burials were found within the House.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer – (b)**

**Explanation –**

Large Stone boulders are known as megaliths (literally big stones). These were carefully arranged by people, and were used to mark burial sites. The practice of erecting megaliths began about 3000 years ago, and was **prevalent throughout the Deccan, south India, in the north-east and Kashmir**. Hence, **Statement 1 is Incorrect.**

**Statement 2 is correct:-**All these burials have common features. Generally, the Dead were buried with distinctive pots, which are called Black and Red Ware. Also found are tools and weapons of *iron* and sometimes, skeletons of horses, horse equipment and ornaments of stone and gold.

**Statement 3 is correct:-**Inamgaon is a site on the river Ghod, a tributary of the Bhima. It was occupied between 3600 and 2700 years ago. Here, **adults were generally buried in the ground**, laid out straight, with the head towards the north. Sometimes burials were within the houses. Vessels that probably contained food and water were placed with the dead.

Source - **Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 47, 48 and 49.**

**12. With reference to Mahajanapadas, consider the following statements:**

1. The Taxation system was regularised and more organised to fund the costs of building forts and maintaining armies.
  2. Bhaga is 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the crop produced by the Farmers.
  3. Animal herders, hunters and gatherers were not part of this Regularised Taxation System.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2

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

**Answer – (a)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct:-**As the rulers of the *mahajanapadas* were building huge forts and maintaining big armies, they needed more resources. And they needed officials to collect these. So, instead of depending on occasional gifts brought by people, as in the case of the *raja* of the *janapadas*, they started collecting regular *taxes*.

**Statement 2 is correct:-**Taxes on crops were the most important. This was because most people were farmers. Usually, the tax was fixed at **1/6th** of what was produced. This was known as *bhaga* or a share. **There were taxes on crafts persons as well.** These could have been in the form of labour. For example, a weaver or a smith may have had to work for a day every month for the king.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:-**Herders were also expected to pay taxes in the form of animals and animal produce. There were also taxes on goods that were bought and sold, through trade. **And hunters and gatherers also had to provide forest produce to the *raja*.**

**Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 59.**

**13. Consider the following statements :**

1. The rise in the agricultural produce in the Mahajanapadas, was due to the agricultural practices which were followed, like the use of the iron ploughshare.
2. The Dasas and Dasyus were mostly engaged in agricultural labour work, like transplanting paddy.
3. The pottery of the Vedic age was Painted Grey Ware with an extremely smooth finish which were used for special occasions.

Which of the following statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the Above

**Answer – (d)**

**Explanation -**

**Statement 1 is correct:-**There were two major changes in agriculture in the time of Mahajanapadas. One was the growing use of **iron ploughshares**. This meant that heavy, clayey soil could be turned over better than with a wooden ploughshare, so that more grain could be produced. Second, people began **transplanting paddy**. This meant that instead of scattering seed on the ground, from which plants would sprout, saplings were grown and then planted in the fields. This led to increased production, as many more plants survived. However, it was back breaking work.

**Statement 2 is correct:-**Generally, slave men and women, (*dasas* and *dasis*) and landless agricultural labourers (*kammakaras*) had to do this work.

**Statement 3 is correct:-**They made earthen pots. Some of these were grey in colour, others were red. One special type of pottery found at these sites is known as **Painted Grey Ware**. As is obvious from the name, these grey pots had painted designs, usually simple lines and geometric patterns. Plates and bowls are the most common vessels made out of Painted Grey Ware. These are extremely fine to touch, with a nice, smooth surface. Perhaps these were used on special occasions, for important people, and to serve special food.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 56, 57 and 60.

**14. In context of the Magadhan Empire, consider the following statements:**

1. Magadhan Empire had vast forested areas and iron ore mines which played a crucial role in its supremacy over the other kingdoms.
2. Rivers like Ganga and Yamuna also flowed through Magadha..
3. Pataliputra was the first capital of Magadhan Empire.

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

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

**Answer – (b)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct & Statement 2 is incorrect:-**Magadha became the most important *mahajanapada* in about two hundred years. Many rivers such as the **Ganga and Son** flowed through Magadha. This was important for (a) transport, (b) water supplies (c) making the land fertile. **Parts of Magadha were forested.** Elephants, which lived in the forest, could be captured and trained for the army. Forests also provided wood for building houses, carts and chariots. Besides, there were iron ore mines in the region that could be tapped to make strong tools and weapons.

Magadha had two very powerful rulers, Bimbisara and Ajatasattu, who used all possible means to conquer other *janapadas*. Mahapadma Nanda was another important ruler. He extended his control up to the north-west part of the subcontinent.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:-Rajagriha (present-day Rajgir) in Bihar was the capital of Magadha for several years.** Later the capital was shifted to Pataliputra (present-day Patna).

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 60 and 61.

**15. Consider the following statements**

1. Vajji had a different government model, called Gana, which unlike monarchy had numerous rulers all having equal powers.
2. Capital of Vajji, Kaushambi, had the river Yamuna passing through it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Answer – (a)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct:-**Vajji, with its capital at Vaishali (Bihar), was under a different form of government, known as *gana* or *sangha*. In a *gana* or a *sangha* there were not one, but many rulers. Sometimes, even when thousands of men ruled together, each one was known as a *raja*. These *rajas* performed rituals together. They also met in assemblies, and decided what had to be done and how, through discussion and debate. For example, if they were attacked by an enemy, they met to discuss what should be done to meet the threat. **However, women, dasas and kammakaras could not participate in these assemblies.**



**Statement 2 is incorrect:-Kaushambi is the capital of Vatsa Kingdom** and is situated on Yamuna, while Vaishali is on Gandak.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 61.

**16. In context of Buddha, consider the following statements:**

1. Siddhartha, the founder of Buddhism belonged to the Sakya Gana.
  2. Buddhism does not believe in the concept of Karma, that is, the result of our actions.
  3. Buddha encouraged rational, independent thought and denounced the importance of rituals.
- Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer – (b)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 & 3 is correct:-**Siddhartha, also known as Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, was born about 2500 years ago. This was a time of rapid change in the lives of people. The Buddha belonged to a **small gana known as the Sakyagana, and was a kshatriya**. The Buddha taught that life is full of suffering and unhappiness. This is caused because we have cravings and desires. The Buddha described this as thirst or *tanha*. He taught that this constant craving could be removed by following moderation in everything. He also taught people to be kind, and to respect the lives of others, including animals.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:-** He believed that the results of our actions (called *karma*), whether good or bad, affect us both in this life and the next. He also encouraged people to think for themselves rather than to simply accept what he said.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 65 and 66.

**17. With reference to Upanishads, consider the following statements –**

1. Most Upanishadic thinkers believed in Atman and Brahman, that is, Individual and Universal Soul.
2. There was a clear social distinction, as in, Upanishadic thinkers were mostly Brahmins and Rajas.

Which of the following statements given above is/are **INCORRECT**?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Answer – (d)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct:-**Many of the thinkers of the time, felt that there was something permanent in the universe that would last even after death. They described this as the **atman or the individual soul and brahman, the universal soul**. They believed that ultimately, both the *atman* and brahman were one. All of these have been **recorded in the Upanishads**.

**Statement 2 is correct:-**Most of the Upanishadic Thinkers were men, mostly *Brahmins* and *rajas*. Occasionally, **there is mention of women thinkers, such as Gargi**, who was famous for her learning, and **participated in debates held in royal courts**. Poor people rarely took part in these discussions.

One famous exception was Satyakama Jabala, who was named after his mother, the slave woman Jabali. He had a deep desire to learn about reality, was accepted as a student by a *brahmin teacher* named Gautama, and became one of the best-known thinkers of the time.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 67 and 68.

**18. Consider the following pairs:**

1. Rules of Buddhist Sangha –Sutta Pitaka
2. Bhikkhus – Buddhist travellers who went around asking for food
3. Panini – Sanskrit Grammararian
4. Viharas – Buddhist Temples

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

**Answer – (d)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**-The rules made for the **Buddhist sangha were** written down in a book called the **VinayaPitaka**. From this we know that there were **separate branches for men and women**. All men could join the *sangha*. Men and women who joined the *sangha* led simple lives.

**Statement 2 is correct:**-They meditated for most of the time, and went to cities and villages to **beg for food** during fixed hours. That is why they were known as **bhikkhus** (the Prakrit word for beggar) and bhikkhunis.

**Statement 3 is correct:**-One of the most famous scholar was Panini, who prepared a grammar for Sanskrit. He arranged the vowels and the consonants in a special order,

**Statement 4 is incorrect:**-Many supporters of the monks and nuns, and they themselves, felt the need for **permanent shelters** and so monasteries were built. These were known as **viharas**.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 69, 70 and 71.

**19. With reference to Ashoka, consider the following statements:**

1. Ashokan Edicts and Inscriptions were mostly written in the language of Prakrit using the Brahmi script.
2. Ashoka's Dhamma involved the worship of Buddha and following Buddhism.
3. Ashoka also talked about the rituals, animal sacrifice and the conflict caused by them.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer – (a)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct:**-Ashoka was the first ruler who tried to take his message to the people through inscriptions. Most of Ashoka's **inscriptions were in Prakrit and were written in the Brahmi script**.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:**-Ashoka's Dhamma did not involve worship of a god, or performance of a sacrifice. He was also inspired by the **teachings of the Buddha**.

**Statement 3 is correct:-**People in the empire followed different religions, rituals and this sometimes led to conflict. Animals were sacrificed. Slaves and servants were ill treated. Besides, there were quarrels in families and amongst neighbours. Ashoka **felt it was his duty to solve these problems.**

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 79 and 80.

**20. With reference to the polity of the Mauryan Empire, consider the following statements:**

1. The large province of Taxila which provided blankets, and other trade commodities, was a gateway to the North-West connecting the Capital region.
2. Ujjain was an access point to Southern India, which provided precious stones.
3. The Mauryans had a well developed spy network and messenger systems.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the Above.

**Answer – (d)**

**Explanation –**

**All the statements are correct:-**The area around Pataliputra was under the direct control of the emperor. This meant that officials were appointed to collect taxes from farmers, herders, crafts persons and traders, who lived in villages and towns in the area. Officials also punished those who disobeyed the ruler's orders. Many of these officials were given salaries. **Messengers went to and fro, and spies kept a watch on the officials. And of course the emperor supervised them.**

Because of the vast empire, the Mauryas tried to control roads and rivers, which were important for transport, and to collect whatever resources were available as tax and tribute. For example, the **Arthashastra tells us that the north-west was important for blankets, and south India for its gold and precious stones.** It is possible that these resources were collected as tribute.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 77.

**21. With reference to terms from Ancient India, consider the following pairs:**

- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Gramabhojaka. | A. Landowners          |
| 2. Grihapatis    | B. Independent Farmers |
| 3. Vellalar      | C. Village Headmen     |
| 4. Uzhavar       | D. Ploughmen           |

Identify the correct answer using code given below:

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

**Answer – (b)**

**Explanation –**

There were at least three different kinds of people living in most villages in the southern and northern parts of the subcontinent. In the Tamil region, large landowners were known as **vellalar**, ordinary ploughmen were known as **uzhavar**, and landless labourers, including slaves, were known as **kadaiyar and adimai**. In the northern part of the country, the village headman was known as

the **gramabhojaka**. Apart from the *gramabhojaka*, there were other independent farmers, known as **grihapatis**, most of whom were smaller landowners. And then there were men and women such as the **dasakarmakara**, who did not own land, and had to earn a living working on the fields owned by others.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 88 and 89.

**22. In the context of the societal features of Ancient India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Gramabhojaka of a village also had Judicial and Tax Collecting Powers.
2. Many craftsmen and merchants grouped into Shrenis, which also sometimes served as Banks.
3. Punch marked Coins made from metals like Silver and Copper were in use.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 2 only
- d) All of the Above.

**Answer- (d)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct:**-In the northern part of the country, the **village headman** was known as the **gramabhojaka**. Usually, men from the same family held the position for generations. In other words, the post was hereditary. **The gramabhojaka was often the largest landowner**. Generally, he had slaves and hired workers to cultivate the land. Besides, as he was powerful, **the king often used him to collect taxes from the village. He also functioned as a judge, and sometimes as a policeman.**

**Statement 2 is correct:**-Many **crafts persons and merchants now formed associations known as shrenis**. These *shrenis* of crafts persons provided training, procured raw material, and distributed the finished product. Then **shrenis of merchants organised the trade. Shrenis also served as banks, where rich men and women deposited money**. This was invested, and part of the interest was returned or used to support religious institutions such as monasteries.

**Statement 3 is correct:**-The earliest coins which were in use for about 500 years were **punch marked coins**. They have been given this name because the designs were punched on to the metal — silver or copper.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 89, 92 and 94.

**23. Consider the following statements :**

1. In the context of Sangam Texts, the term “Muvendar” referred to the three chiefs, that is Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas.
2. These Chiefs of South India, did not have a regular Tax Collection system.
3. They were also called the Lords of Dakshinapatha, as they controlled the routes to South India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer – (b)**

**Explanation –**



**Statement 1 is correct:-**Chiefs and kings who controlled the river valleys and the coasts became rich and powerful. **Sangam poems mention the *muwendar*.** This is a **Tamil word meaning three chiefs, used for the heads of three ruling families, the Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas.** Each of the three chiefs had **two centres of power: one inland, and one on the coast.** Of these six cities, two were very important: Puhar or Kaveripattinam, the port of the Cholas, and Madurai, the capital of the Pandyas.

**Statement 2 is correct:-** The chiefs **did not collect regular taxes.** Instead, **they demanded and received gifts from the people.** They also went on military expeditions, and collected tribute from neighbouring areas. They kept some of the wealth and distributed the rest amongst their supporters, including members of their family, soldiers, and poets.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:-**Around 200 years later a dynasty known as the **Satavahanas became powerful in western India** The most **important ruler** of the Satavahanas was **Gautamiputra Shri Satakarni.** **He and other Satavahana rulers were known as lords of the *dakshinapatha*,** literally the route leading to the south, which was also used as a name for the entire southern region.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 100 and 101.

**24. With reference to The Silk Route, consider the following statements:**

1. Silk Route was the route followed by the Chinese Travellers and traders, to carry the trade commodities like silk from China to different Asian and West Asian countries.
2. The Routes were controlled by Kushanas, in India, who ruled over North Western and Central India.
3. The traders who travelled along the Silk Route used gold coins and paid taxes/tributes to the kingdoms they were passing through, in exchange for security and ease of travel.

Which the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer – (a)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct:-**People from China who went to distant lands on foot, horseback, and on camels, carried silk with them. The paths they followed came to be known as the Silk Route. Sometimes, Chinese rulers sent gifts of silk to rulers in Iran and west Asia, and from there, the knowledge of silk spread further west. Some kings tried to control large portions of the route. This was because they could benefit from taxes, tributes and gifts that were brought by traders travelling along the route. In return, they often protected the traders who passed through their kingdoms from attacks by robbers.

**Statement 2 is correct:-**The best-known of the rulers who controlled the Silk Route were the Kushanas, who ruled over central Asia and north-west India around 2000 years ago. Their **two major centres of power were Peshawar and Mathura.** Taxila was also included in their kingdom. During their rule, **a branch of the Silk Route extended from Central Asia down to the seaports at the mouth of the river Indus, from where silk was shipped westwards to the Roman Empire.**

**Statement 3 is correct:-**The Kushanas were amongst the earliest rulers of the subcontinent to **issue goldcoins.** These were used by traders along the Silk Route.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 102 and 103.

**25. With reference to Buddhism, consider the following statements:**

1. The Third Buddhist Council was organised by the Kushana ruler Kanishka and the Buddhist scholar Asvagosha.
2. Mahayana Buddhism was patronised by Kanishka which became the most popular sect of Buddhism.
3. Buddhacharita is a Sanskrit poem, composed by Ashvagosha.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer – (b)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:**-The most famous Kushana ruler was Kanishka, who ruled around 1900 years ago. He organised a Buddhist council, where scholars met and discussed important matters. It was the Fourth Buddhist Council, the Third one was organised by Asoka.

**Statement 2 is correct:**-A new form of Buddhism, known as Mahayana Buddhism, now developed.

**Statement 3 is correct:**-Ashvaghosha, a poet who composed a biography of the Buddha (in Sanskrit), the Buddhacharita, lived in his court. Ashvaghosha and other Buddhist Scholars began writing in Sanskrit. Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 103.

**26. Consider the following statements with regards to Buddhism:-**

- 1) The distinct feature of Mahayana Buddhism was that the Buddha was depicted through his human form, while earlier, he was represented using signs/symbols.
- 2) The Enlightenment of Buddha was earlier depicted through his Footprints.
- 3) The worship of Bodhisattvas was a prominent feature of Theravada Buddhism.
- 4) Bodhisattvas are Buddhist Scholars who preach Buddhism to other people.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 3 and 4
- d) 1 and 4

**Answer – (d)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct** -A new form of Buddhism, known as Mahayana Buddhism, now developed. This had **two distinct features**. Earlier, the **Buddha's presence was shown in sculpture by using certain signs**.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:**-For instance, **his attainment of enlightenment was shown by sculptures of the peepal tree**. Now, **statues of the Buddha were made**. Many of these were made in Mathura, while others were made in Taxila.

The **second change was a belief in Bodhisattvas**. Hence **statement 3 is incorrect**.

These were supposed to be persons who had attained enlightenment. Once they attained enlightenment, they could live in complete isolation and meditate in peace. **Statement 4 is correct:**- However, instead of doing that, they remained in the world to teach and help other people. The worship of Bodhisattvas became very popular, and spread throughout Central Asia, China, and later to Korea and Japan.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 103 and 104.

**27. Consider the following statements**

1. Mahayana Buddhism and worship of Bodhisattvas became popular in Central Asia, China, Japan and Korea.
2. Theravada Buddhism was more popular in Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Answer – (c)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct:**-The worship of Bodhisattvas became very popular, and spread throughout Central Asia, China, and later to Korea and Japan. Buddhism also spread to western and southern India, where dozens of caves were hollowed out of hills for monks to live in.

**Statement 2 is correct:**-Buddhism also spread south eastwards, to **Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, and other parts of Southeast Asia including Indonesia. The older form of Buddhism, known as Theravada Buddhism was more popular in these areas.**

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 103 and 104.

**28. Consider the following statements:**

1. Bhakti suggests an intimate two-way relationship between the deity and devotee. It emphasizes devotion and individual worship.
2. Bhakti helped inspire works in poetry, sculpture, painting and enrichment of languages.

Which of the statements given above is/are **INCORRECT**?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Answer – (d)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct:**-The **idea of Bhakti** is present in the **Bhagavad Gita**, a sacred book of the Hindus, which is included in the Mahabharata. In this Krishna the god, asks Arjuna, his devotee and friend, to abandon all *dharma*s and take refuge in him, as only he can set Arjuna free from every evil. This form of worship gradually spread to different parts of the country. Those who followed the system of **Bhakti emphasised devotion and individual worship of a god or goddess, rather than the performance of elaborate sacrifices. Once this idea gained acceptance, artists made beautiful images of these deities.**

Bhakti Comes from the Sanskrit term *bhaja* meaning 'to divide or share.' This suggests an intimate, two-way relationship between the deity and the devotee. Bhakti is directed towards Bhagavat, which is often translated to god, but also means one who possesses and shares *bhaga*, literally good fortune or bliss. The devotee, known as the *bhakta* or the *bhagavata*, shares his or her chosen deity's *bhaga*.

**Statement 2 is correct:**-Bhakti inspired some of the best expressions in art — sculpture, poetry and architecture.

Source - Social (history)-Our past 1(6<sup>th</sup> NCERT) – 107 and 108.

**29. Consider the following statements about Prashasti:**

1. Harisena was the court poet of Samudra Gupta, and was responsible for the Allahabad Prashasti.
2. According to the Prashasti, Samudragupta had different policies for the Aryavarta rulers and the Dakshinapatha rulers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Answer – (c)**

**Explanation –**

Statement 1 is correct:-**Prahashti- A long inscription, actually a poem in Sanskrit, composed by Samudragupta's court poet, Harishena** nearly 1700 years ago. This was inscribed on the Ashokan pillar at Allahabad. This inscription is of a special kind known as a prashasti, a Sanskrit word, meaning 'in praise of'.

**Statement 2 is correct:-**Samudragupta had different policies for rulers belonging to different regions. The rulers of Aryavarta, were nine rulers who were uprooted, and their kingdoms were made a part of Samudragupta's Empire. **The rulers of Dakshinapatha were twelve rulers.** They surrendered to Samudragupta after being defeated and he then allowed them to rule again. The inner circle of neighbouring states, including Assam, coastal Bengal, Nepal, and a number of gana sanghas in the northwest, who brought tribute, followed his orders, and attended his court. While the rulers of the outlying areas, perhaps the descendants of the Kushanas and Shakas, and the ruler of Sri Lanka, submitted to him and offered daughters in marriage.

Source – Social (History) 6th NCERT-Our Past 1 – Pages – 111 and 112.

**30. Consider the following statements**

1. Kalidasa and Aryabhata were part of the court of Samudragupta.
2. Samudragupta's successor, Chandragupta II defeated the last of Shakas.
3. Chandragupta's reign saw coins minted in his name, in which he is depicted playing a veena.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer – (b)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:-**According to later belief, **Chandragupta II's court** was full of learned people, including Kalidasa the poet, and Aryabhata the astronomer.

**Statement 2 is correct:-**He led an expedition to western India, where he overcame the last of the Shakas.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:-Some other qualities of Samudragupta are shown on coins such as this one, where he is shown playing the veena.** Samudragupta in turn figures in the genealogies (lists of ancestors) of later rulers of the dynasty, such as his son, Chandragupta II. We know about him from inscriptions and coins.



Source – Social (History) 6th NCERT-Our Past 1 – Pages – 113 and 114.

**31. Consider the following statements:**

1. Banabhatta wrote the biography of Harsha Vardhana in Sanskrit.
2. The Biography details his path to power, his acts as a king and his rule.
3. Xuan Zang visited the court of Harsha.

Which of the statements given above is/are **INCORRECT**?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) All of the above

**Answer – (b)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct:-Harshavardhana**, who ruled nearly 1400 years ago, was one such ruler. His court poet, **Banabhatta**, wrote his biography, the **Harshacharita**, in Sanskrit.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:-**This gives us the **genealogy of Harsha**, and ends with his becoming king.

**Statement 3 is correct:-XuanZang**, also spent a lot of time at Harsha's court and left a detailed account of what he saw.

Source - Source – Social (History) 6th NCERT-Our Past 1 – Pages – 114.

**32. Consider the following pairs:**

1. Ravikirti– Court of Chalukyas
2. Kalidasa- Court of Chandragupta II
3. Harisena - Court of Samudragupta
4. Banabhatta- Court of Pulakeshin II

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

**Answer – (d)**

**Explanation –**

Aihole, the capital of the Chalukyas of Badami, was an important trading centre. It developed as a religious centre, with a number of temples. **Chalukya ruler was Pulakeshin II**. We know about him from a prashasti, **composed by his court poet Ravikirti**. Hence **1 is correct**.

Samudragupta, a famous ruler of a dynasty known as the Guptas. We know about Samudragupta from a long inscription, actually a poem in Sanskrit, composed by his court poet, **Harishena** nearly 1700 years ago. According to later belief, **Chandragupta II** led an expedition to western India, where he overcame the last of the Shakas. His court was full of learned people, including Kalidasa the poet, and Aryabhata the astronomer. Hence **2 & 3 is correct**.

**Statement 4 is incorrect:-Harshavardhana**, ruled nearly 1400 years ago. His court poet, **Banabhatta**, wrote his biography, the **Harshacharita**, in Sanskrit. This gives us the genealogy of Harsha, and ends with his becoming king. XuanZang, a Chinese traveller also spent a lot of time at Harsha's court and left a detailed account of what he saw.

Source – Social (History) 6th NCERT-Our Past 1 – Pages – 113 and 115.

**33. With reference to the offices of administration during Harsha's times, consider the following pairs:**

1. Mahadandanayaka– Chief Military officer
2. Kumar –amatya - Minister
3. SandhiVigrahika - Minister of war and peace
4. Kayasthas - Treasurers

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 2 and 4

**Answer – (b)**

**Explanation –**

The poet Harishena was a **maha-danda-nayaka**, or **chief judicial officer**, like his father. Hence 1 is incorrect.

Harishena was a **kumar-amatya**, meaning an important minister, and a **sandhi-vigrahika**, meaning a minister of war and peace. Hence 2 and 3 are correct.

**Head of the scribes is Kayasthas. Hence 4 is incorrect.**

Source - Social (History) 6th NCERT-Our Past 1 – Pages – 116.

**34. Consider the following pairs with respect to the administration of Southern Kingdoms –**

1. NagaraShreshthi - Treasurer
2. Sarthavaha - leader of merchant caravans
3. PrathamaKulika - Chief Trader
4. Nagaram - Organisation of Merchants

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 3 and 4
- d) 2 and 4

**Answer – (d)**

**Explanation –**

Important and Influential men probably had a say in local administration in the southern kingdoms. These included the **nagara shreshthi** or **chief banker or merchant of the city**, Hence 1 is incorrect. The **sarthavaha** or **leader of the merchant caravans**, Hence 2 is correct.

The **Prathama-kulika** or the **chief craftsman**, and the head of the **kayasthas** or scribes. Hence 3 is incorrect

**Ur** was a village assembly found in areas where the land owners were not brahmins. And the **nagaram** was an **organisation of merchants**. Hence 4 is correct.

Source - Social (History) 6th NCERT-Our Past 1 – Pages – 116 and 117.

**35. Consider the following statements:**

1. Samantas were rich landlords, who had the right of revenue of their land, and also maintained troops of soldiers, horses and equipment for warfare.
2. Ur is a village assembly consisting of Brahmin landlords.
3. In literature and plays, like that of Kalidasa's, the King and Brahmins are shown to speak Sanskrit, and all others, women and men are shown to speak prakrit.

Which of the above given statements are correct?

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

**Answer –(c)**

**Explanation**

Some of the kings maintained a well-organised army, with elephants, chariots, cavalry and foot soldiers. Besides, there were military leaders who provided the king with troops whenever he needed them. They were not paid regular salaries. Instead, some of them received grants of land. **They collected revenue from the land and used this to maintain soldiers and horses, and provide equipment for warfare. These men were known as samantas.** Whenever the ruler was weak, samantas tried to become independent.

sabha, is an assembly of brahmin land owners. This assembly functioned through subcommittees, which looked after irrigation, agricultural operations, making roads, local temples, etc. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

**Statement 2 is incorrect:-The ur was a village assembly found in areas where the land owners were not brahmins.** And the nagaram was an organisation of merchants.

**Statement 3 is correct:-**Kalidasa is known for his plays depicting life in the king's court. An interesting feature about these plays is that the **king and most brahmins are shown as speaking Sanskrit, while women and men other than the king and brahmins use Prakrit.**

Source - Social (History) 6th NCERT-Our Past 1 – Pages – 117 and 118.

**36. Consider the following statements about ancient Indian literature:**

1. Aryabhatta wrote Aryabhatiyam in Sanskrit, in which he explained concepts of rotation, scientific explanations for eclipses etc.
  2. The Tamil epics, Manimekalai was composed by Sattanar and Silappadikaram by Ilango.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

**Answer – (c)**

**Explanation –**

**Statement 1 is correct:-**Aryabhata, a mathematician and astronomer, wrote a book in Sanskrit known as the Aryabhatiyam. He stated that day and night were caused by the rotation of the earth on its axis, even though it seems as if the sun is rising and setting everyday. He developed a scientific explanation for eclipses as well. He also found a way of calculating the circumference of a circle

**Statement 2 is correct:-**A famous Tamil epic, the Silappadikaram, was composed by a poet named Ilango, around 1800 years ago. Another Tamil epic, the Manimekalai was composed by Sattanar around 1400 years ago.

Source - Social (History) 6th NCERT-Our Past 1 – Pages – 128 and 137.

**37. Consider the following statements regarding the Varna system**

1. Shudras were completely excluded from rituals until the Gupta Era.
2. Women and Shudras were not allowed to study the Vedas

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

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

**Ans : C**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The shudras, who had to serve the other three groups and could not perform any rituals until Gupta era.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Often, women were also grouped with the shudras. Both women and shudras were not allowed to study the Vedas.

**38. Consider the following statements regarding Jainism**

- 1. Rules of Ahimsa were strictly followed by men and women.
- 2. The celibacy doctrine was to be observed by Jainas.
- 3. Jainism was mainly supported by traders and farmers.

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

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

**Ans : A**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Mahavira taught a simple doctrine: men and women who wished to know the truth must leave their homes. They must follow **very strictly the rules of ahimsa**, which means not hurting or killing living beings.

**Statement 2 is correct :** Followers of Mahavira, who were known as Jainas, had to lead very simple lives, begging for food. They had to be absolutely honest, and were especially asked not to steal. Also, they had to **observe celibacy**. And men had to give up everything, including their clothes.

**Statement 3 is incorrect:** Jainism was supported mainly by traders. Farmers, who had to kill insects to protect their crops, found it **more difficult to follow the rules**.

**39. Consider the following pairs:**

**System of Ashramas    Meaning**

- A. Sanyasa            -1. Householder life
- B. Brahmacharya -2. Renunciation and the realization of dharma
- C. Vanaprastha    -3. Gradual detachment from the material world
- D. Grihastha        -4. Study the Vedas

**Match the above pairs using the code given below.**

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



**Ans : D**

**Explanation**

Around the time when Jainism and Buddhism were becoming popular Brahmins developed a system of Ashramas. Here, the word ashrama does not mean a place where people live and meditate. It is used instead for a stage of life.

Four Ashramas were recognised namely

1. Brahmacharya,
2. Grihastha,
3. Vanaprastha and
4. Samnyasa

**Brahmacharya:** Brahmin, Kshatriya and Vaishya men were expected to lead simple lives and study the vedas during the early years of their life.

**Grihastha** means they had to marry and live as households.

**Vanaprastha** means they had to live in forest and meditate. It means the retirement stage, is gradual detachment from the material world.

**Samnyasa:** Finally, they had to give up everything and become samnyasins.

**40. With reference to Vajji, consider the following statements**

1. Vajji was under a different form of government known as gana or sangha
2. DighaNikaya, a famous book of Jains, contains the account of Vajjis

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

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

**Ans : A**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Vajji, with its capital at Vaishali (Bihar), was under a different form of government, known as **gana or sangha**.

In a gana or sangha there were not one, **but many rulers**. Sometimes, even when thousands of men ruled together, each one was known as a raja. These rajas performed rituals together. They also met in assemblies, and decided what had to be done and how, through discussion and debate.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** DighaNikaya, a famous **Buddhist book**, which contains the account of Vajjis. These were written down about 2300 years ago

**41. Consider the following statements**

1. Chandragupta's ideas were written in the Arthashastra.
2. Ashvaghosa who composed Buddhacharita was the court poet of Kanishka.
3. Harshacharita, the biography of Harsha was written in Prakrit language.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Ans : B**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Chandragupta was supported by a wise man named Chanakya or Kautilya. Many of **Chanakya's ideas** were written down in a book called the Arthashastra.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The most famous Kushana ruler was **Kanishka**, who ruled around 1900 years ago. He organised a Buddhist council, where scholars met and discussed important matters. Ashvaghosha, a poet who composed a biography of the Buddha, the Buddhacharita, lived in his court.

**Statement 3 is incorrect :** Harshavardhana, who ruled nearly 1400 years ago, was one of the important ruler. His court poet, Banabhatta, wrote his biography, the Harshacharita, **in Sanskrit**. This gives us the genealogy of Harsha, and ends with his becoming king.

**42. Consider the following statements regarding Ashoka's dhamma policy:**

1. It advocated religious tolerance.
2. The propagation of Dhamma was done by special officials known as Dhammamahamattas

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Ans : C**

**Explanation**

Both are correct statements.

- Ashoka's dhamma did not involve worship of a god, or performance of a sacrifice. The ultimate aim of Ashoka's Dhamma was to maintain **peace and harmony**. It advocated **tolerance** towards all religions.
- Ashoka felt it was his duty to solve the problems in his kingdom. So, he appointed officials, known as the **dhammamahamatta** who went from place to place teaching people about dhamma. Besides, Ashoka got his messages inscribed on rocks and pillars, instructing his officials to read his message to those who could not read it themselves.

**43. Consider the following statements regarding Stupas:**

1. It may contain bodily remains or things used by Buddha or his followers.
2. A magnificent stupa once existed in Amaravati.
3. Sanchi Stupa contains the story of the Monkey King.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Ans : A**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The word stupa means a **mound**. While there are several kinds of stupas, round and tall, big and small, these have certain common features. Generally, there is a small box placed at the centre or heart of the stupa. This may contain bodily remains (such as teeth, bone or ashes) of the Buddha or his followers, or things they used, as well as precious stones, and coins.

**Statement 2 is correct :** Amaravati was a place where a **magnificent stupa** once existed. Many of the stone carvings for decorating the stupa were made about 2000 years ago.

**Statement 3 is incorrect :** The story of **Monkey king** is shown on a piece of sculpture found from a stupa at **Bharhut** in central India.

**44. With reference to coins issued in ancient India, consider the following statements:**

1. The gold coins were first issued by the Guptas.
2. Punch marked coins were made up of Silver and Copper

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Ans : B**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is incorrect :** The **Kushanas** **Were** amongst the earliest rulers of the subcontinent to issue gold coins.

**Statement 2 is correct:** The earliest coins which were in use for about 500 years were punch marked coins. They have been given this name because the designs were punched on to the metal — **silver or copper**

**45. With reference to Kandahar inscription, consider the following statements:**

1. The inscription was related to the Mauryan ruler, Asoka.
2. It was written in Greek language only.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Ans: A**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is correct:** **Kandahar** inscription dates to about 2250 years ago, and was found in Kandahar, present-day Afghanistan. It was written on the orders of a ruler named Ashoka.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** This inscription was written in two different scripts and languages, **Greek (top) and Aramaic (below)**, which were used.





**46. Consider the following statements regarding Neolithic Tools:**

1. Polished tools were not found in the Neolithic period.
2. Some tools were made of bone.
3. Mortars and pestles were used for grinding grain.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Ans : D**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is incorrect :** In Neolithic period, tools were **polished** to give a fine cutting edge.

**Statements 2 and 3 are correct :** Mortars and pestles are used for **grinding grain** and other plant produce. Mortars and pestles are used for grinding grain even today, several thousand years later. At the same time, tools of the Palaeolithic types continued to be made and used, and remember, some tools were also **made of bone**.

**47. Consider the following statements regarding the social life of Neolithic people:**

1. Most of the agricultural work was done by both men and women.
2. Old women were respected for their wisdom and experience.

**Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2



d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans : A**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Members of a tribe follow occupations such as hunting, gathering, farming, herding and fishing. **Usually, women do most of the agricultural work**, including preparing the ground, sowing seeds, looking after the growing plants and harvesting grain. Children often look after plants, driving away animals and birds that might eat them. Women also thresh, husk, and grind grain. Men usually lead large herds of animals in search of pasture. Children often look after small flocks. The cleaning of animals and milking, is done by both men and women. Both women and men make pots, baskets, tools and huts. They also take part in singing, dancing and decorating their huts.

**Statement 2 is correct :** Some men are regarded as leaders. They may be old and experienced, or young, brave warriors, or priests. Old women are respected for their **wisdom and experience**.

**48. Which of the following may be the reasons for the end of the Indus valley civilization?**

1. Floods
2. Drying up of river
3. Deforestation
4. Rulers lost their control

**Select the correct answer from the given codes below.**

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

**Ans : D**

**Explanation**

**All four statements are correct.**

Some scholars suggest that the rivers dried up. Others suggest that there was **deforestation**. This could have happened because fuel was required for baking bricks, and for smelting copper ores. Besides, grazing by large herds of cattle, sheep and goat may have destroyed the green cover. In some areas there were **floods**. But none of these reasons can explain the end of all the cities. Flooding, or a **river drying up** would have had an effect in only some areas. It appears as if the **rulers lost control**.

**49. Consider the following statements regarding the Paleolithic period:**

1. Traces of ash have been found at Patne in Maharashtra.
2. Evidence of Ostrich egg shells were found at Kurnool caves.
3. The period had a long span of time and it covers 99 percent of Human history.
4. This period marks the importance of stone tools.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

Ans : B

#### Explanation

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** Traces of ash have been found at **Kurnool caves**. This suggests that people were familiar with the use of fire. Fire could have been used for many things: as a source of light, to cook meat, and to scare away animals.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Large quantities of ostrich egg shells were found at **Patne in Maharashtra**. Designs were engraved on some pieces, while beads were also made out of them.

**Statement 3 is correct :** The Palaeolithic period extends from 2 million years ago to about 12,000 years ago. This long stretch of time is divided into the Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic. This long span of time covers **99% of human history**.

**Statement 4 is correct :** The word Paleolithic comes from two Greek words, 'palaeo', meaning old, and 'lithos', meaning stone. The name points to the importance of finds of **stone tools**.

#### 50. With reference to the Rig Veda, consider the following statements

1. The dialogue between a sage named Vishvamitra and two rivers (Beas and Sutlej) is mentioned in the Rig Veda
2. The manuscript of Rig Veda on birch bark was found in Kashmir.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

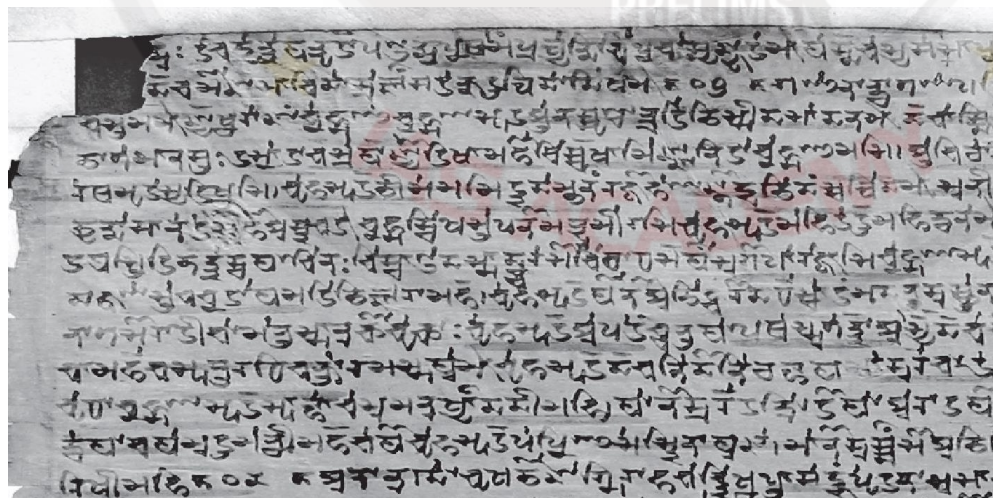
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans : C

#### Explanation

**Statement 1 is correct :** Some of the hymns in the Rigveda are in the form of dialogues. This is part of one such hymn, a dialogue between a sage named Vishvamitra, and two rivers, (Beas and Sutlej) that were worshipped as goddesses.

**Statement 2 is correct :**



This manuscript of the Rigveda, on **birch bark**, was found in **Kashmir**. About 150 years ago, it was used to prepare one of the earliest printed texts of the Rigveda, as well as an English translation. It is now preserved in a library in Pune, Maharashtra.

#### 51. Consider the following regarding the various burial practices in Ancient India:

1. The dead were buried with pots

2. Copper was the only metal found at megalithic burials
3. The body was placed in a cross legged position
4. Food and water were placed with dead

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Ans : A**

**Explanation**

- Inamgaon is a site on the river Ghod, a tributary of the Bhima. It was occupied between 3600 and 2700 years ago. Here, adults were generally buried in the ground, laid out **straight**, with the head towards the north. Sometimes burials were within the houses. Vessels that probably contained **food and water** were placed with the dead. **Hence 1 is correct**
- One man was found buried in a large, four legged clay jar in the courtyard of a five-roomed house (one of the largest houses at the site), in the centre of the settlement. This house also had a granary. The body was placed in a **cross legged** position. **Hence 3 is correct.**
- Generally the dead were buried with **distinctive pots**, which are called Black and Red Ware. Also found are **tools and weapons of iron and sometimes**, skeletons of horses, horse equipment and ornaments of stone and gold. **Hence 4 is correct.**
- **Iron** equipment found from megalithic burials. **Hence 2 is incorrect.**

**52. Consider the following statements regarding Chinese Buddhist pilgrims to India:**

1. Fa Xian and other pilgrims spent time studying in Nalanda, the most famous Buddhist monastery of the period.
2. XuanZang carried back with him the statues of the Buddha made of gold, silver and sandalwood, and over 600 manuscripts loaded on the backs of 20 horses.
3. I-Qing, came to India about 50 years after XuanZang.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Ans : C**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is incorrect :** XuanZang, and other pilgrims spent time studying in Nalanda, (Bihar) the most famous Buddhist monastery of the period.

**Statements 2 is correct :** XuanZang, who took the land route back to China (through the north-west, and Central Asia) carried back with him **statues of the Buddha made of gold, silver and sandalwood, and over 600 manuscripts loaded on the backs of 20 horses**. Over 50 manuscripts were lost when the boat on which he was crossing the Indus capsized. He spent the rest of his life translating the remaining manuscripts from Sanskrit into Chinese.

**Statements 3 is correct :** The best-known of these are the Chinese Buddhist pilgrims, Fa Xian, who came to the subcontinent about 1600 years ago, XuanZang (who came around 1400 years ago) and



**I-Qing, who came about 50 years after XuanZang.** They came to visit places associated with the life of the Buddha as well as famous monasteries.

**53. Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Pottery</b>
---------------	----------------

- |                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Stone Age        | A. Black Design                 |
| 2. Chalcolithic Age | B. Black and Red Ware           |
| 3. Vedic Age        | C. Painted Grey Ware            |
| 4. Mahajanapada     | D. Northern Black Polished Ware |

**Match the above pairs using the codes given below.**

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

**Ans : b**

**Explanation**

**Self Explanatory**

**54. Consider the following statements regarding Faience:**

- 1. Faience was a naturally found material.
- 2. It was used to make beads and bangles.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct ?**

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

**Ans : B**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is incorrect** :Unlike stone or shell, that are found naturally, **faience is a material that is artificially produced**. A gum was used to shape sand or powdered quartz into an object. The objects were then glazed, resulting in a shiny, glassy surface. The colours of the glaze were usually blue or sea green.

**Statement 2 is correct** :Faience was used to make **beads, bangles, earrings, and tiny vessels**.





**55. Consider the following statements regarding Upanishads:**

1. Gargi was a women thinker who was famous for her learning, and participated in debates held in royal courts.
2. The famous Chandogya Upanishad contains the story of the wise beggar, which is in the form of a dialogue.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Ans : C**

**Explanation**

**Statements 1 is correct :**Most of the Upanishadic Thinkers were men, mostly brahmins and rajas. Occasionally, there is mention of women thinkers, such as **Gargi**, who was famous for her learning, and participated in debates held in royal courts.

**Statement 2 is correct :**Chandogya Upanishad contains the story of the wise beggar which is in the form of dialogue.

**56. Consider the following statements regarding the Mauryan ruler Ashoka:**

1. Ashoka was the first ruler who tried to take his message to the people through inscriptions.
2. He is the only king in the history of the world who gave up conquest after winning a war.
3. Ashoka sent messengers to spread ideas about dhamma to other lands, such as Syria, Egypt, Greece and Sri Lanka
4. He arranged for medical treatment for human beings only.

**Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?**

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

**Ans : C**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is correct :** He was the first ruler who tried to take his message to the people through inscriptions. Most of Ashoka's inscriptions were in Prakrit and were written in the Brahmi script.

**Statements 2 and 3 are correct :**

- Ashoka fought a war to conquer Kalinga. However, he was so horrified when he saw the violence and bloodshed that he decided not to fight any more wars. He is the **only king** in the history of the world who **gave up conquest** after winning a war.
- Ashoka also sent messengers to spread ideas about dhamma to other lands, such as **Syria, Egypt, Greece and Sri Lanka**.

**Statement 4 is incorrect :** He built roads, dug wells, and built rest houses. Besides, he arranged for medical treatment for both **human beings and animals**.

**57. Consider the following statements regarding Mathura:**

1. Mathura was an important centre for the worship of Lord Shiva.
2. Several inscriptions on surfaces such as stone slabs and statues have been found in Mathura.
3. The inscriptions from Mathura mention goldsmiths, blacksmiths, weavers, basket makers, garland makers and perfumers.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Ans : C**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is incorrect :** Mathura was also a religious centre — there were Buddhist monasteries, Jaina shrines, and it was an important centre for the worship of **Krishna**.

**Statements 2 and 3 are correct :** Several inscriptions on surfaces such as stone slabs and statues have been found in Mathura.

Generally, these are short inscriptions, recording gifts made by men (and sometimes women) to monasteries and shrines. These were made by kings and queens, officers, merchants, and crafts persons who lived in the city. For instance, inscriptions from **Mathura mention goldsmiths, blacksmiths, weavers, basket makers, garland makers, perfumers**.

**58. Consider the following statements :**

1. CharakaSamhita was a book written by Chanakya
2. It states that the human body contains 306 bones

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Ans : D**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is incorrect :** About 2000 years ago, there was a famous physician named **Charaka** who wrote a book on medicine known as the CharakaSamhita.

**Statement 2 is incorrect** : There he states that the human body has **360 bones**. This is a much larger number than the 200 bones that are recognised in modern anatomy. Charaka arrived at this figure by counting the teeth, joints and cartilage.

**59. Consider the following statements regarding the Harappan Civilization**

1. Burnt bricks were used for the construction of Great Bath
2. Fire Altars were found in Mohenjodaro and Harappa

**Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?**

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

**Ans : B**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is correct** : In Mohenjodaro, a very special tank, which archaeologists call the **Great Bath**, was built in this area. This was lined with **bricks (burnt), coated with plaster, and made water-tight with a layer of natural tar**. There were steps leading down to it from two sides, while there were rooms on all sides. Water was probably brought in from a well, and drained out after use. Perhaps important people took a dip in this tank on special occasions.

**Statement 2 is incorrect** : The cities, such as **Kalibangan and Lothal** had fire altars, where sacrifices may have been performed.

**60. With reference to the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements:**

1. It belongs to the Iron Age
2. Elephants were not domesticated by the Indus people.
3. Cotton was used for manufacturing textiles

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

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

**Answer : C**

**Explanation :**

- The **Indus culture belongs to the Bronze age**. The people of Indus used many tools and implements of stone, but they were very well acquainted with the manufacture and use of bronze. Iron age started during the vedic period. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- **Elephants were very well known to the Indus people** along with Oxen, Buffaloes, Goats, sheep also the remain of horse were reported from several harappan sites. **Hence statement 2 is also incorrect.**
- The Indus people were the earliest people to produce cotton and it was largely used for manufacturing textiles. **Hence Statement 3 is correct.**

**61. With reference to town planning in the Indus Valley Civilization, consider the following statements:**

1. In general, every house in the cities consisted of a courtyard and a well.
2. The street drains of Harappan cities were equipped with manholes

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

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

**Answer : C**

**Explanation :**

- Harappan cities were considered as pioneer in terms of planning during their era. For instance they followed the **grid system for constructing houses** i.e, roads cut across each other at 90 degrees. They paid specific attention to sanitation and hygiene. Majority of houses in the cities were equipped with a well, bathroom and courtyard. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Water from the houses were channelised towards drains which were covered , at some places with burnt brick , and other with stone slabs. The most striking feature was manholes of street drains, probably for purpose of maintenance and cleaning. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

**62. The Union Cabinet has approved a monthly pension scheme for small retail traders and shopkeepers. Which of the following is/are the components of the scheme - Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan Yojana?**

1. Under the scheme all small shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons whose turnover is below 1.5 crore are assured a minimum of Rs.3,000 monthly pension after attaining 60 years of age.
2. All small shopkeepers, self-employed persons and retail traders aged between 18-60 years can enroll for this pension scheme.
3. The scheme is based on self-declaration as no documents are required including bank account and Aadhaar Card.

**Which of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The Union Cabinet has approved a monthly pension scheme for small retail traders and shopkeepers.
- The scheme that offers pension coverage to the trading community will cover 3 crore small retail traders and shop keepers.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under the scheme all small shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons are assured a minimum of Rs.3,000 monthly pension after attaining 60 years of age.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect-** All small shopkeepers, self-employed persons and retail traders aged between **18-40 years** and with Goods and Service Tax (GST) turnover below Rs.1.5 crore can enrol for pension scheme.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect-** The scheme is based on self-declaration as no documents are required **except bank account and Aadhaar Card.**
- The Central Government will make matching contribution (same amount as subscriber contribution) i.e. equal amount as subsidy into subscriber's pension account every month.



**Source:**

<https://www.livemint.com/money/personal-finance/narendra-modi-approves-monthly-rs-300-pension-for-kirana-shopkeepers-traders-all-you-need-to-know-1559548558808.html>

<http://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/social-security/pension-scheme-for-shopkeepers>

**63. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recommended 'complete' ban on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), including e-cigarettes. In this context, consider the following statements about e-cigarettes.**

1. An electronic cigarette (or e-cig) is a battery-powered vaporizer that mimics tobacco smoking.
2. e-cigarettes contain nicotine and not tobacco.

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

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:**-An electronic cigarette (or e-cig) is a **battery-powered vaporizer that mimics tobacco smoking.**
- **It works by heating up a nicotine liquid, called "juice."**
- Nicotine juice (or e-juice) comes in various flavors and nicotine levels. **e-liquid is composed of five ingredients: vegetable glycerin (a material used in all types of food and personal care products, like toothpaste) and propylene glycol (a solvent most commonly used in fog machines.) propylene glycol is the ingredient that produces thicker clouds of vapor.**
- Proponents of e-cigs argue that the practice is healthier than traditional cigarettes because users are only inhaling water vapor and nicotine.
- **Statement 2 is correct:- e-cigarettes contain nicotine and not tobacco**
- **E-cigarettes do not fall within the ambit of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA), which mandates stringent health warnings on the packaging and advertisements of tobacco products.**

**Source:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/icmr-recommends-ban-on-electronic-nicotine-delivery-systems-ends-including-e-cigarettes-119053101040\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/icmr-recommends-ban-on-electronic-nicotine-delivery-systems-ends-including-e-cigarettes-119053101040_1.html)

**64. Beagle Channel is shared between which of the following countries?**

- a) Chile and Argentina
- b) Brazil and Chile
- c) Brazil and Mexico
- d) Mexico and Chile

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**



Source:

<https://thedi diplomat.com/2019/06/consolidating-indias-indian-ocean-strategy/>

**66. Consider the following statements about Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**

1. Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is an international organization founded in 1969, consisting of 57 member states including India.
2. It is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations.

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

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is an international organization founded in 1969, consisting of 57 member states.
- India is **not** a member of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It is the **second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The organisation states that it is “**the collective voice of the Muslim world**” and works to “safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony”.
- The OIC has permanent delegations to the United Nations and the European Union.
- **Permanent Secretariat is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.**

Source:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/government-slams-oic-s-final-communiqu-reference-to-jammu-and-kashmir-rights-1559572772684.html>

**67. SDG Gender Index is released by?**

- a) The group of 30 under 30
- b) Equal Measures 2030
- c) WHO
- d) World Bank

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The 2019 edition of SDG Gender Index has been released.
- **Developed by Equal Measures 2030, a joint effort of regional and global organisations including African Women’s Development and Communication Network, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation etc.**
- It accounts for 14 out of 17 SDGs (sustainable development goals) that cover aspects such as poverty, health, education, literacy, political representation and equality at the workplace.
- India is ranked **95th** among **129 countries**.

Note:

**SDG Gender index is different from Global gender gap Index which is released by World Economic Forum.**

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-at-95-on-maiden-gender-index/article27473159.ece>

**68. The spread of Nipah virus has been a matter of concern recently in the state of Kerala. In this context, consider the following statements:**

1. Nipah virus infection is transmitted from animals to humans.
2. The natural host of the virus are fruit bats belonging to the family Pteropodidae.
3. The disease was first identified in a village called Nipah in Kerala.

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

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- According to WHO, the Nipah virus infection is a newly emerging zoonosis, that is, a disease **transmitted from animals to humans**.
- The virus belongs to a new genus termed Henipavirus (subfamily Paramyxovirinae).
- The **natural host of the virus are fruit bats belonging to the family Pteropodidae**.
- In 2004, humans were affected after eating the date palm contaminated by infected fruit bats. Pigs can also act as intermediate hosts. **Hence statement 1 and 2 are correct.**
- **Statement 3 is wrong** - It was first identified in 1998 at Kampung Sungai Nipah village, Malaysia.
- The virus is named after this village.

Source:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/nipah-virus-resurfaces-in-kerala-after-killing-17-last-year/articleshow/69644368.cms>

**69. 'Point Sonam' is located on which of the following?**

- a) Kanchenjunga
- b) Mt Everest
- c) Siachen Glacier
- d) Mt Etna

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- Siachen Glacier is among the **largest glaciers in the non-polar region of the world**.
- It lies in the Karakoram Range system which is a part of western Himalayas.
- Siachen Glacier also boasts of the **world's highest helipad built by India at Point Sonam, to supply its troops**.



- India also installed the world's highest telephone booth on the glacier.

Source:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/watch-how-jawans-posted-in-siachen-battle-minus-70-degree-cold-demonstrate-struggle-with-food-1545288-2019-06-09>

**70. Shanta Kumar Committee is related to which of the following?**

- a) Merger of Banks
- b) Restructuring of Food Corporation of India.
- c) Revamping of PSU's
- d) Disaster Management

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan lays down the future roadmap for Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- **He stated that primacy will be given to ensure that the functioning of FCI is streamlined and fast paced as per recommendations of the Shanta Kumar Committee.**
- The government had set up a six-member committee to suggest restructuring or unbundling of FCI to improve its financial management and operational efficiency in procurement, storage and distribution of food grains.

Source:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/ram-vilas-paswan-seeks-ideas-from-ex-secretaries-to-improve-efficiency-of-food-corporation-of-india/articleshow/69698203.cms>

**71. SPICE 2000 guided bombs are procured by India from which of the following countries?**

- a) USA
- b) Russia
- c) Germany
- d) Israel

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed a deal with Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, **an Israeli defence firm to procure a batch of SPICE 2000 guided bombs.**
- **The SPICE stands for Smart, Precise Impact and Cost-Effective.**
- It is guidance and maneuvering kit manufactured by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
- SPICE can overcome errors in locating target, GPS jamming and also reduces collateral damage.

Source:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/iaf-inks-rs-300-crore-deal-to-procure-spice-bombs-from-israel/articleshow/69694463.cms>

**72. Pacemakers sometimes seen in news are related to which among the following?**

- a) Form of internal fixation used in orthopaedic surgery to hold fractures in place to allow bone healing.
- b) Thin tube inserted into the ureter to prevent or treat obstruction of the urine flow from the kidney.
- c) Small device that's placed in the chest or abdomen to help control abnormal heart rhythms.

d) Machine designed to provide mechanical ventilation by moving breathable air into and out of the lungs

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

A pacemaker is a **small device that's placed in the chest or abdomen to help control abnormal heart rhythms.**

It is an implantable, battery-powered minicomputer that sends electrical pulses to the heart whenever it detects a slow heartbeat or no heartbeat at all and prompt the heart to beat at a normal rate. It is a life-saving device.

**Option A** corresponds to **Orthodontic plate** which is a form of internal fixation used in orthopaedic surgery to hold fractures in place to allow bone healing.

**Option B** corresponds to **Ureteric stent** which is a thin tube inserted into the ureter to prevent or treat obstruction of the urine flow from the kidney.

**Option D** corresponds to **Medical Ventilator** which is a machine designed to provide mechanical ventilation by moving breathable air into and out of the lungs.

**73. Jan Shikshan Sansthan scheme is related to which of the following**

- a) Skill development and training
- b) Achievement of universalisation of elementary education
- c) Women empowerment
- d) Health for all

**Answer:A**

**Explanation:**

- Jan Shikshan Sansthan is set up with **skill development and training objectives.**
- The Scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan [JSS] formerly known as **Shramik Vidyapeeth** is a unique creation of Government of India with the challenging mandate of providing vocational skills to non-literate, neo-literates as well as school drop outs.
- The Scheme is being implementing with **public and private partnership since last five decades** for the **upliftment of women, SC, ST, OBC and Minority in rural and urban slums.**
- JSSs are **providing vocational training at doorstep of the beneficiary in the unreached areas.**
- JSSs conducts vocational courses which have National Skill Qualification Framework Compliant, having market demand and higher anticipated income and encourage local traditional arts /courses in their operational areas.

<https://jss.gov.in/staticPages>

**74. Consider the following statements:**

1. Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a four member body headed by the RBI governor.
2. Repo rate is the rate of interest which is applied by RBI to commercial banks when the latter borrows from RBI.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

About MPC

1. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a committee of the RBI, **headed by its Governor**, which is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy interest rate (repo rate) to contain inflation within the specified target level.

2. The MPC has **six members** RBI Governor (Chairperson), RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one official nominated by the RBI Board and remaining 3 members would represent the Government.

About Repo rate. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

1. Repo rate is the rate of interest which is applied by RBI to commercial banks when the latter borrows from RBI. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

2. Repo rate is used to control inflation. In the event of raising inflation, RBI increase repo rate which will act as a disincentive for banks to borrow from the central bank.

**75. Which of the following are the factors in the determination of Minimum Support Price (MSP).**

1. Cost of production (CoP)
2. Price trend in the domestic and international markets
3. Inter-crop price parity

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Solution – d**

**Explanation:**

1. Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a **form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.**

2. The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops **on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).**

3. Cost of production (CoP) is one of the important factors in the determination of MSP of mandated crops.

4. Commission for 'Agricultural Costs and Prices' (CACP), considers other important factors such as demand and supply, price trend in the domestic and international markets, inter-crop price parity.

Further reading: <http://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/market-information/minimum-support-price>

**76. Consider the following statements with respect to Remdesivir and choose the most appropriate statement describing it.**

- a) It is a second generation gene editing tool after CRISPR–cas9.
- b) It is an antiviral drug that is used as a treatment for filovirus infections such as Ebola virus disease and Marburg virus infections.
- c) It is a space mission planned by NASA to explore the presence of water vapour in asteroid Bennu.
- d) It is the most advanced humanoid robot with artificial intelligence (AI) technology developed by Microsoft.

**Solution – b**

**Explanation:**

1. Remdesivir is an antiviral drug that is **used as a treatment for filovirus infections such as Ebola virus disease and Marburg virus.**
2. **Remdesivir was accidentally found to be effective against Nipah virus** also in primates. Since Nipah currently does not have any cure/treatment, it is a welcome discovery.
3. Though Ebola and Nipah belong to different viral families, remdesivir — made by Gilead Sciences and also known as GS-5734 — appears effective against both.
4. In mice or cells cultivated in the laboratory, the drug has also shown some effectiveness against two other threats: endemic Lassa fever and Pandemic MERS coronavirus.

**77. Consider the following statements with reference to microplastics.**

1. It is the small plastic piece less than 5 millimeter.
2. Biomagnification refers to increasing concentration of a substance, such as a toxic chemical, in the tissues of organisms at successively higher trophic levels.

Which of the following statements given above is/are **INCORRECT**?

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

**Solution – d**

**Explanation:**

1. Micro plastics are the small plastic piece less than 5 millimeter
2. Researchers have pointed out that every person consumes 5g of plastics (equivalent to credit card) every week.
3. The major source of the micro plastics is tap and bottled water.
4. Bio-accumulation refers to increase in concentration of a substance in certain tissues of organism's body. Bioaccumulation occurs when an organism absorbs a toxic substance from all sources at a rate greater than that at which the substance is lost.
5. Bio magnification refers to increasing concentration of a substance, such as a toxic chemical, in the tissues of organisms at successively higher levels in a food chain.

**78. Consider the following statements with reference Kimberley Process:**

1. The Kimberley Process is an international certification scheme that regulates trade in rough diamonds.
2. India is currently the Chair of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)

**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

**Solution – C**

**Explanation:**

- The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) outlines the rules that govern the trade in rough diamonds. Hence statement 1 is correct.



- India is currently the Chair of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) since 1st January 2018. India is a founding member of KPCS. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Kimberley Process is an international certification scheme that regulates trade in rough diamonds. It aims to prevent the flow of conflict diamonds, while helping to protect legitimate trade in rough diamonds.

**79. Consider the following statements with respect to Tropical cyclones:**

1. Cyclones are sustained by very strong low-pressure areas at their core.
2. Although cyclones affect the entire coast of India the west coast is more prone compared to the east coast.

**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

**Solution – a**

**Explanation:**

1. Cyclones are sustained by very strong low-pressure areas at their core. Winds in surrounding areas are forced to rush towards these low-pressure areas. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
2. Though cyclones are common in the June, **very few of them originate in the Arabian Sea (west coast)**. Most of them are found in the Bay of Bengal (east coast). **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
3. Arabian Sea cyclones are also relatively weak compared to those emerging in the Bay of Bengal.

**80. Consider the following statements about food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**

1. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act).
2. FSSAI functions under the administration of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
3. FSSAI has developed the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States on five parameters of food safety.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Solution – C**

**Explanation:**

1. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an **autonomous statutory body** established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act).
2. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the administrative Ministry of FSSAI. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
3. FSSAI developed **first State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States on five parameters of food safety.**

**81. Which among the following countries are members of both SAARC and BIMSTEC?**

- a) Thailand and Myanmar

- b) Pakistan and Srilanka
- c) Myanmar and Bhutan
- d) Bhutan and Bangladesh

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is a **regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union consists of 8 member states-- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives.**  
<http://saarc-sec.org/about-saarc>
- The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is a **regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.**
- This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka**, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.  
[https://bimstec.org/?page\\_id=189](https://bimstec.org/?page_id=189)

**82. Recently a MoU has been signed to create a trans-boundary wildlife conservation park in Manas.**

**In this context, consider the following statements:**

1. Manas National park lies in the boundary region of India and Nepal.
2. The park is dominated by dense forest vegetation.
3. River Brahmaputra does not pass through the Manas National park.

**Which of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?**

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- Manas National park lies in the **boundary region of India and Bhutan.** Located in the Himalayan foothills, it is contiguous with the Royal Manas National park in Bhutan. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**
- River Brahmaputra does not pass through it. But the **Manas River**, a major tributary of Brahmaputra River passes through the heart of the national park. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- More than half of the Manas national park represents **grassland type** of vegetation. It is home to some of the important grassland fauna like Pygmy hog (critically endangered). **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Source:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manas\\_National\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manas_National_Park)

**83. Consider the following pairs:**

1. Nameri National Park – Assam
2. Nokrek National Park – Meghalaya
3. Singalila National Park – Himachal Pradesh

4. Simbalbara National Park – West Bengal

**Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Nameri National Park is in Assam.** Nameri shares its northern boundary with the Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Nokrek National Park is a national park located approximately 2 km from Tura Peak in West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya.** Along with Balphakram national park, Nokrek is a hotspot of biodiversity in Meghalaya.
- **Third statement is wrong** - Singalila National Park is located on the Singalila Ridge at an altitude of more than 7000 feet above sea level, in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal.
- **Fourth statement is wrong** - Simbalbara National Park is located in the Paonta Valley of Himachal Pradesh along its border with Haryana.

**Source:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singalila\\_National\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singalila_National_Park)

**84. Consider the following statements**

- 1. It is a vast expanse of tall elephant grass, marshland, and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests.
- 2. It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by Bird Life International for conservation of avifaunal species.
- 3. It is known for being the residence of 'Big Five' animals, ie, Great Indian One horned Rhinoceros, Indian Elephant, Royal Bengal Tiger, Eastern Swamp Deer and Wild Water Buffalo.

**Which of the following National Parks is described above?**

- a) Balphakram
- b) Dudhwa
- c) Kaziranga
- d) KeibulLamjao

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Self explanatory

National Park	State
Balphakram	Meghalaya
Dudhwa	Uttar pradesh
Kaziranga	Assam
KeibulLamjao	Manipur

**Source:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaziranga\\_National\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaziranga_National_Park)

**85. Which of the following wildlife sanctuaries is/are embraced by the Western Ghats?**

1. Eravikulam National Park
2. Nagarhole National Park
3. Borivali National Park
4. Namdapha National Park

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Fourth statement is wrong - Namdapha National park is in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Other wildlife sanctuaries embraced in the Western Ghats - Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve, Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary, Eravikulam National Park, Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary

**Source:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Namdapha\\_National\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Namdapha_National_Park)

**86. Consider the following statements with reference to the Black Sea:**

1. The Black Sea opens into the Mediterranean Sea.
2. River Volga and Ural discharge into the Black sea.
3. The Strait of the Dardanelles connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara.
4. The Black Sea is connected to the Sea of Azov by the Bosphorus Strait.

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

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- The Black Sea drains into the Mediterranean Sea, via the Aegean Sea and various straits.
- **Statements 2, 3 & 4 are incorrect**
- The **Bosphorus Strait connects it to the Sea of Marmara**, and the Strait of the Dardanelles connects that sea to the Aegean Sea region of the Mediterranean.
- The Black Sea is also connected, to the north, to the Sea of Azov by the **Strait of Kerch**.
- **River Danube, Dnieper, Dniester discharges into Black sea.** River Volga, Ural discharges into Caspian sea

**Source:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Sea)

**87. Which of the following country does not border the Caspian Sea?**



- a) Turkmenistan
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Kazakhstan
- d) Azerbaijan

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**



**88. Which of the following states is not located in the Horn of Africa?**

- a) Sudan
- b) Chad
- c) Eritrea
- d) Djibouti

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**



**89. North Korea which was in the news recently is located between which of the following Seas?**

- a) Korea Bay and the Sea of Japan
- b) Yellow Sea and the East China Sea
- c) Korea Bay and Yellow Sea
- d) East China Sea and Sea of Japan

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**



**90. Sabang, a strategically important naval port for India often in the news, is located in which of the following geographical location?**

- a) Strait of Hormuz
- b) Strait of Malacca
- c) Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb
- d) Isthmus of Kra

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**



**91. Which of the following tourist places are also famous volcanic Hot Spots?**

- 1. Galapagos Island
- 2. Hawaii island
- 3. Yellowstone National Park
- 4. Reunion island

**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) All of the above

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

A **volcanic "hotspot"** is an area in the mantle from which heat rises as a thermal plume from deep in the Earth. High heat and lower pressure at the base of the lithosphere (tectonic plate) facilitates melting of the rock. This melt, called magma, rises through cracks and erupts to form **volcanoes**. All the places mentioned in the question are Volcanic Hotspots.

**92. Consider the following statements regarding the New Development Bank.**

1. In the NDB, each participant country has been assigned one vote, and no country has veto power.
2. It is outcome of the 7th BRICS Summit held in the Russian city of Ufa.

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

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation: Statement 1 is correct.**

In the NDB, each participant country has been assigned one vote, and no country has veto power. Everyone has an equal share of 20 billion each.

The New Development Bank was formed to support infrastructure and sustainable development efforts in BRICS and other underserved, emerging economies for faster development through innovation and cutting-edge technology. The bank will partner nations through capital and knowledge, achieving development goals with transparency and empathy and creating an equal opportunity for the development of all countries.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** During the **sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014)**, the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB).

In the Fortaleza Declaration, the leaders stressed that the NDB will strengthen cooperation among BRICS and will supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development, thus contributing to collective commitments for achieving the goal of strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

Source: <https://www.ndb.int/about-us/essence/history/>

**93. With reference to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), consider the following statements**

1. AIIB has more than 80 member nations.
2. India is the largest shareholder in AIIB.
3. AIIB does not have any members from outside Asia.

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

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

**Answer: a) 1 only**

**Explanation:**

1. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia. It is headquartered in Beijing.
2. AIIB began operations in January 2016 and have now grown to **100 approved members worldwide**.
3. **India is the second largest shareholder of the AIIB.** India is also the largest recipient of concessional finance for various infrastructure projects.
4. Non regional countries like Austria, Belgium, Canada, U.K., etc. are also members of AIIB.

**94. Which one of the following books of ancient India contains the love story of the son of the founder of Sunga dynasty?**

- a) Swapnavasavadatta
- b) Malavikagnimitra
- c) Meghadoota
- d) Ratnavali

**Ans : B – Malavikagnimitra**

**Explanation :**

- **Malavikagnimitra :It is a Sanskrit play by Kalidasa.** It is known to be his first play. It is a play that depicts **the love story of Agnimitra , the Shunga Emperor.** He falls in love with the picture of an exiled servant girl named Malavika.
- **Swapnavasavadatta :It is a Sanskrit play in six acts written by the ancient Indian poet Bhasa.**
- **Meghadoota :It is a lyric poem written by Kalidasa.**
- **Ratnavali :It is a Sanskrit drama about a beautiful princess named Ratnavali, and a great king named Udayana.** It is attributed to the Indian emperor Harsha (606–648).

**95. Who among the following had first deciphered the edicts of Emperor Ashoka?**

- a) Georg Bihler
- b) James Prinsep
- c) Max Muller
- d) William Jones

**Ans : B – James Prinsep**

**Explanation :**

James Prinsep, British archeologist and historians decoded the edicts of emperor Ashoka.**He deciphered Brahmi script in 1838.** Prinsep found that on most of the earliest inscriptions and coins, there is a mention of a king referred to as King 'Piyadasa' (Beloved-of-the-Gods). The deciphering to the Brahmi script by Prinsep provided a new direction to investigations into early Indian political history.

**96. Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya kingdom?**

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



**Ans : B –Motupalli**

**Explanation :**

Kakatiya dynasty

- South Indian dynasty
- Capital :Orugallu (now known as Warangal)
- It was eventually conquered by the Delhi Sultanate.
- The demise of Kakatiya dynasty resulted in confusion and anarchy under alien rulers for sometime.
- Three new fledgeling kingdoms arose out of the ruins of the Kakatiyaempire namely the Reddy kingdom, Padma NayakaVelama kingdom and the great Vijayanagara Empire.
- Ganapati was the most powerful of Kakatiya sovereigns.
- Motupalli, now in Krishna district, was an important seaport in his kingdom, frequented by foreign merchants.

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

- a) Chanhudaro
- b) KotDiji
- c) Sohgaure
- d) Desalpur

**Ans :C - Sohgaure**

**Explanation :**

- Sohgaure located in Uttar Pradesh is a Mauryan Site. Sohgaure copper-plate, is a Mauryan record that mentions famine relief efforts.
- Early Harappansite :KotDiji (now in Pakistan)
- Mature Harappansites :Chanhudaro (Pakistan) and Desalpur (Gujarat)

**98. In which of the following relief sculpture inscriptions is 'RanyoAshoka' (King Ashoka) mentioned along with the stone portrait of Ashoka?**

- a) Kanaganahalli
- b) Sanchi I
- c) Shahbazgarhi
- d) Sohgaure

**Ans :A - Kanaganahalli**

**Explanation :**

**Kanaganahalli**

- It is a Buddhist site in Karnataka
- The inscription was written in Brahmi script reading RanyoAshoka(King Ashoka) and a stone sculpture of King Ashoka.

**Shahbazgarhi**

- It is an ancient town in Pakistan
- It is known for one of the rock edicts of the Mauryan emperor Ashoka.

**Sohgaure**

- Sohgaure located in Uttar Pradesh
- Sohgaure copper-plate, is a Mauryan record that mentions famine relief efforts.

**Sanchi I**

- It is historic site in Madhya Pradesh

- It was built by Ashoka and was damaged during the break-up of the Maurya Empire.

**99. With reference to forced labour (Vishti) in India during the Gupta period, which one of the following statements is correct?**

- a) It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.
- b) It was totally absent in the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions of the Gupta Empire.
- c) The forced labourer was entitled to weekly wages.
- d) The eldest son of the labourer was sent as the forced labourer.

**Ans : A - It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.**

**Explanation**

- Forced labour (Vishti) was considered as a **source of income for the state, a sort of tax by the people.**
- It was **most prevalent during Gupta period.**
- The fact that most of the inscriptions referring to Vishti come from Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions may suggest this practice for more prevalent in these areas.

**100. With reference to Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:**

1. ADB envisions a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the region.
2. There is no provision for providing grants to its member countries.
3. China is not a member of the Asian Development Bank.

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

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

**Ans : A**

**Explanation**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Strategy 2030 : The Asian Development Bank envisions a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty in the region. Despite the region's many successes, it remains home to a large share of the world's poor: 330 million living on less than \$1.90 a day and 1.24 billion on less than \$3.20 a day.

ADB in partnership with member governments, independent specialists and other financial institutions is focused on delivering projects in developing member countries that create economic and development impact.

**Statement 2 is incorrect :** As a multilateral development finance institution, ADB assists its members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development. ADB raises funds through bond issues on the world's capital markets. It also relies on its members' contributions, retained earnings from their lending operations, and the repayment of loans.

**Statement 3 is incorrect :** China was a member of ADB since 1966.

For further reference : <https://www.adb.org/about/our-work>

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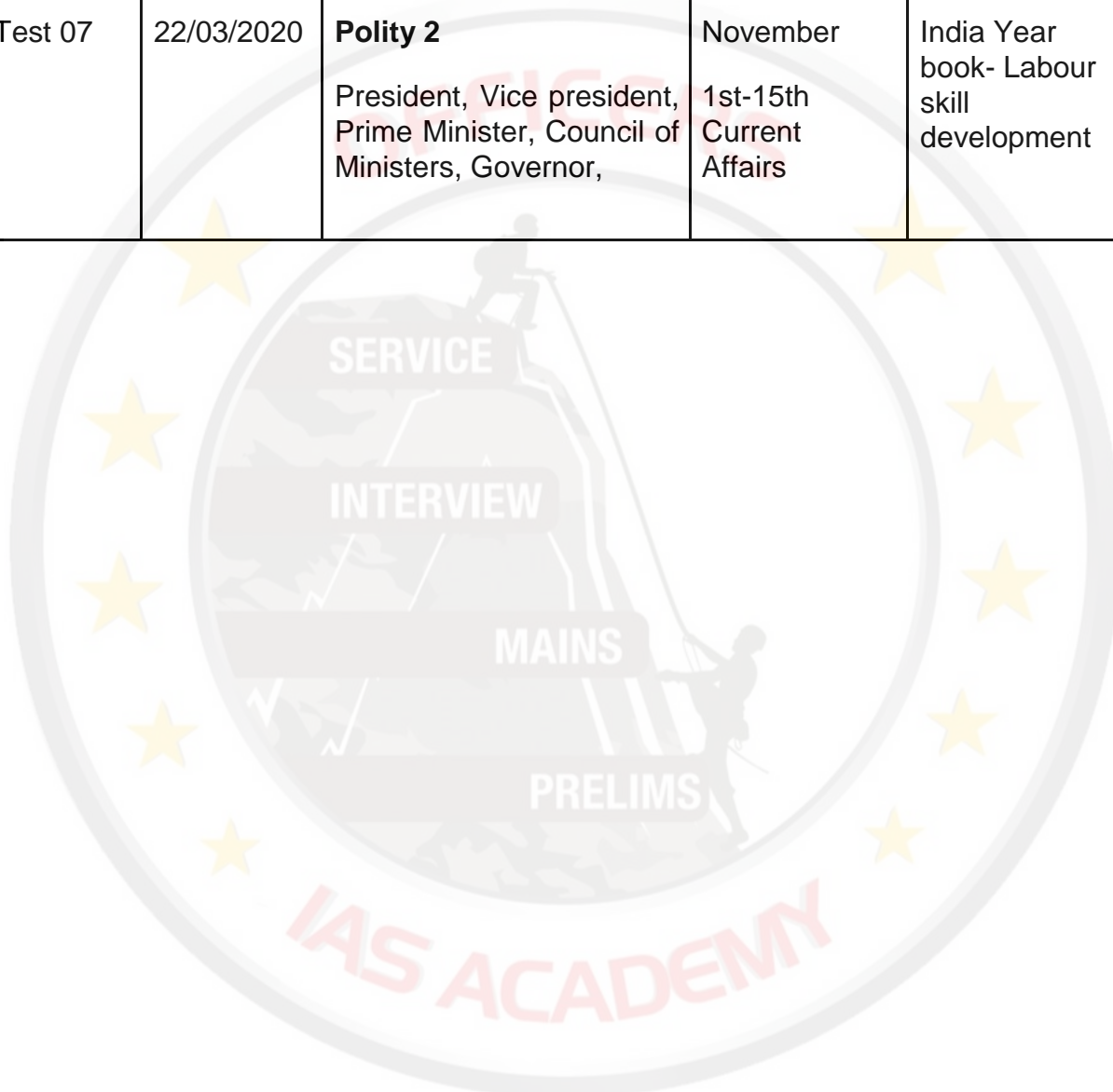
		PHASE II		
TEST NUMBER	DATE	SYLLABUS	CURRENT AFFAIRS	MISCELLANEOUS
Test 01	09/02/2020	<b>Polity 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Historical background</li><li>•Making of the constitution</li><li>•Salient features</li><li>•Preamble</li><li>•Union and its territories</li><li>•Citizenship</li><li>•Fundamental Rights</li><li>•DPSP</li><li>•Fundamental Duties</li><li>•Constitutional bodies</li><li>•Non-constitutional bodies</li></ul>	June month Current Affairs	India year book-Scientific and technological development
Test 02	16/02/2020	<b>Ancient History &amp; Medieval History</b>	July month Current Affairs	India Year book- Education

Test 03	23/02/2020	<b>Economy 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Public finance</li> <li>•Inflation</li> <li>•National income +</li> <li>•Current Affairs related to above</li> </ul>	August month Current Affairs	India Year book- Energy
Test 04	01/03/2020	<b>Environment 1</b> <b>Environmental ecology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Basics of ecology, Biomes, adaptation, Habitat/niche, biotic interaction, food chain/web, Nutrient cycle and impact of man, bioaccumulation/bio</li> </ul>	September month Current Affairs	India Year Book- Environment



		<p>magnification, Human modified ecosystems</p> <p><b>Biodiversity-</b> Various types of diversity</p> <p>-Genetic, species, ecosystem. Bio-diversity depletion, Conservation (In situ and ex situ). Details of in situ and ex situ (Biosphere reserves, Species oriented projects like project tiger, Sacred grooves. Similarly zoos, cryopreservation, gene banks), Bio-diversity related legislations</p> <p>-National and international.</p> <p><b>Agriculture</b> Crop and its classification, Tillage, Cropping system and pattern, Farming system, Sustainable agriculture, Organic farming, Integrated farming system + Current Affairs related to above</p>		
Test 05	08/03/2020	<p><b>Geography 1</b></p> <p>Fundamentals of physical geography and Human geography</p>	<p>October</p> <p>1st-15th Current Affairs</p>	<p>India year book- Transport</p>

Test 06	15/03/2020	<b>Modern India-1707 to 1857 &amp; Art and culture</b>	October 16th-31st Current Affairs	India Year book- Rural and Urban Development
Test 07	22/03/2020	<b>Polity 2</b>  President, Vice president, Prime Minister, Council of Ministers, Governor,	November  1st-15th Current Affairs	India Year book- Labour skill development



		Chief Minister, State Council of Ministers, Parliament, State legislature		and employment
Test 08	29/03/2020	<b>Environment 2</b> Pollution- All types of pollution- air, water, plastic, e wastes, etc. Legislations, Govt. Initiatives, Global warming and Climate change -Basics of global warming, International Collaboration on Climate Change  <b>Agriculture</b> Agriculture Schemes, Government initiatives related to Agriculture, Technologies involved in Agriculture, Organizations related to Agriculture, Climate Change and Agriculture, Zero Budget Natural Farming Irrigation, Related Soil science + Current Affairs related to above	November 16th-30th Current Affairs	India year book- Agriculture
Test 09	05/04/2020	<b>Geography 2</b> India- Physical environment, Human geography	December 1st–15th Current Affairs	India year book- Health and Family welfare

Test 10	12/04/2020	<b>Modern History</b> <b>1885-1947, Art and culture- Part 2</b>	December 16th-31st Current	India year book- Industry
Test 11	19/04/2020	<b>Polity 3</b> 1. Emergency Provisions	January 1st-15th	India year book- Defence





## OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

### (IAS Academy by IAS Officers)

		Constitutions 3. Centre State Relations 4. Inter State Relations 5. Federal Features	Affairs	
Test 12	26/04/2020	<b>Economy 2</b> RBI & Banking, Capital market, Money market, External trade	January 16th-31st Current Affairs	
Test 13	03/05/2020	<b>Science &amp; Technology and Environment</b> full syllabus + current affairs related to Science and Environment	February 1st-15th Current Affairs	
		<b>PHASE III</b>		
Test 14	10/05/2020	Full Mock 1	Current Affairs till date	

## OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

### (IAS Academy by IAS Officers)

Test 15	17/05/2020	Full Mock 2	Current Affairs till date	
Test 16	17/05/2020	CSAT Mock 1		
Test 17	24/05/2020	Full Mock 3	Current Affairs till date	
Test 18	24/05/2020	CSAT Mock 2		
Test 19	26/05/2020	Full Mock 4	Current Affairs till date	
Test 20	26/05/2020	CSAT Mock 3		
FINAL	31/05/2020	<b>ACTUAL PRELIMS EXAM</b>		