

## Test Series Question Paper 02-12-2023

**Q1: Recently religious site “Sammed Shikhar” was in news. Consider the following statements:**

1. All Jain Tirthankars attained salvation at this place.
2. Tirthankara were not an incarnation of the God.
3. The place is worshiped only by the Svetambaras.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Recently Jain community organised protests across the country over the religious site of Sammed Shikhar on Parasnath hill in Jharkhand and Shetrunjay hill in Palitana of Gujarat.
- The Jain community has been protesting against the Jharkhand government's tourism policy which intended to develop Sammed Shikharji in Parasnath hills as a tourist destination.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is believed that 20 of the 24 Jain Tirthankars (except bhagvan Rishabdev, bhagavan Vasupujaya, bhagvan Nemihatha and bhagvan Mahavira) have attained salvation (“moksha” after meditating) at Sammed Shikhar.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Tirthankara means “full moon”, which is a metaphor for Keval Gnan. A Tirthankar is not an incarnation of the God.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Shikharji is worshiped by both the Digambaras and the Svetambaras. Shikharji is also part of ‘Svetambara Pancha Tirth’ (five principal pilgrimage shrines), the other four are Ashtapad, Girnar, Dilwara Temples of Mount Abu and Shatrunjaya.

**Q2: Recently Nataraja statue was installed at the venue of G20 summit in Delhi. Consider the following pairs related Nataraja statue:**

1. Abhayamudra: Lower right hand
2. Suppressing Apasmara: Left leg
3. Bhujangatrasita: Right leg

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None of the above

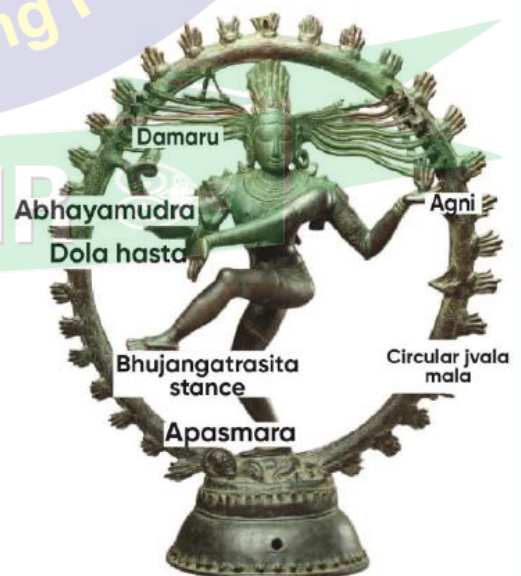
**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

The world's tallest Nataraja statue was installed at Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the G20 summit in Delhi.

**Features of Nataraja statue:**

- Damaru in the upper right hand (signifies creation)
- Upper left-hand holds Agni (signifies destruction and its counterpart)
- Lower right hand in abhayamudra (a gesture that allays fear and reassures safe existence). **So, pair (1) is correct.**
- Lower left hand held in dola hasta



- Right leg used for balancing and suppressing the apasmara (the demon of ignorance or forgetfulness). **So, pair (2) is incorrect.**
- Left leg in bhujangatrasita stance (represents tirobhava, that is kicking away the veil of maya or illusion from the devotee's mind). **So, pair (3) is incorrect.**
- Circular jwala mala (the garland of flames) surrounding the entire dancing figuration

**Q3: Consider the following statements regarding the Harappan Seals:**

1. Animal impression were missing from the seals.
2. Most seals have pictographic script.
3. The script was written mostly from right to left.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Animal impressions are a common feature of Harappan seals. Some of the most common animals depicted on Harappan seals include bulls, zebras, elephants, and rhinoceroses.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Most Harappan seals have a pictographic script. Pictographic writing is a type of writing that uses pictures to represent words or ideas. The Harappan script is still undeciphered, but scholars believe that it was used to record administrative information, such as trade transactions and land ownership.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Harappan script was written mostly from right to left. This is a common feature of many ancient writing systems, including Egyptian hieroglyphics and Sumerian cuneiform.

**Q4: Consider the following statements regarding the features of the Ashokan Pillars and choose the incorrect option:**

- (a) Abacus forms the base of Ashokan Pillars.
- (b) Animal sculptures are found on Abacus.
- (c) Capital was either lotus shaped or bell shaped.
- (d) The bell-shaped capitals were influenced by the Iranian pillars.

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- The abacus forms the uppermost part of Ashokan Pillars. It is a square stone block that sits atop the capital (the ornate carved piece that rests on the shaft of the pillar). The abacus is typically plain and undecorated, and it serves as a base for the crowning animal sculpture, which is usually a lion. **So, option (a) is incorrect.**
- A long Shaft of Ashokan pillars formed the base and was made up of a single piece of stone or monolith.
- On top of it lay the capital, which was either lotus shaped or bell shaped. **So, option (c) is correct.**
- The bell-shaped capitals were influenced by the Iranian pillars, as was the highly polished and lustrous finish of the pillars. **So, option (d) is correct.**
- Above the capital, there was a circular or rectangular base known on the abacus on which an animal figure was placed. Example: Lauria Nandangarh pillar in Champaran, Sarnath pillar near Varanasi, etc. **So, option (b) is correct.**

**Q5: Consider the following statements regarding Bharut Stupa:**

1. It represents one of the early instances of Indo-Greek popular art.
2. A Greek warrior is depicted on a pillar of the Vedika.
3. Jataka tales are depicted on the railings.
4. The railing of the Bharhut stupa depicts "Queen Maya's, dream"

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Unlike the Maurya's imperial art, the reliefs and figures in Bharhut stupa were provided by lay people, monks, and nuns, according to inscriptions on the railings. As a result, it is considered one of the earliest instances of Maurya popular art.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A Greek warrior is depicted on a pillar of the Vedika. He has short hair and a headband and is dressed in boots and a tunic.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Buddha's previous incarnations; birth stories, known as Jataka tales, are depicted on the railings. The aniconic phase of Buddhist art is represented by the Bharhut stupa. Buddha has been shown as a series of symbols.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The railing of the Bharhut stupa depicts "Queen Maya's dream", which occurred before the Buddha's birth. The figure of the Buddha was never depicted in early Buddhist art. Instead, symbols of him were there, including a seat, footprints, the Bodhi tree, the wheel, and the "stupa". The railings sculptural reliefs are a veritable collection of early Buddhist iconographic elements.

**Q6: Consider the following characteristic features of Amravati School of Art:**

1. Both indigenous and foreign influence.
2. Only Satavahana rulers were patron of this school.
3. Long legs and slender frames.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Amravati School of Art is considered to be a significant example of indigenous Indian art. It is characterized by its elegant and refined sculptures, which depict scenes from the life of the Buddha and other Buddhist stories. The Amravati School of Art played an important role in the development of Buddhist art in India and Southeast Asia.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Satavahanas were the first to patronize it, followed by the Ikshvakus and other groups (feudatories, administrators, and merchants). The Amaravati school of art developed between the lower valleys of the Krishna and Godavari rivers in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The general features of Amaravati art were that the figures were carved out of white marble. The figures were well modelled with long legs and slender frames. Physical beauty and sensual expressions command this art.

**Q7: Consider the following pairs related to Sun Temples in India:**

- |                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Brahmanya Dev Temple:            | Uttarakhand    |
| 2. Arasavalli Surya Narayan Temple: | Andhra Pradesh |
| 3. Suryanar Kovil:                  | Tamil Nadu     |
| 4. Dakshinaarka Sun Temple:         | Karnataka      |

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four



**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

The mural of the iconic Konark Sun Temple wheel was showcased to the World Leaders at the G20 Summit.

**Some of the important Sun Temple in India are:**

- Martand Sun Temple: Jammu and Kashmir
- Brahmanya Dev Temple: Madhya Pradesh. *So, pair (1) is incorrect.*
- Modhera Sun Temple: Gujarat
- Katarmal Surya Temple: Uttarakhand
- Surya Pahar Temple: Assam
- Dakshinaarka Sun Temple: Bihar. *So, pair (4) is incorrect.*
- Arasavalli Surya Narayan Temple: Andhra Pradesh. *So, pair (2) is correct.*
- Suryanar Kovil: Tamil Nadu. *So, pair (3) is correct.*

**Q8: Consider the following pairs of Mudras related to Buddha:**

1. **Vitarka Mudra:** The right hand is positioned at shoulder level and the left hand at the hip level.
2. **Abhaya Mudra:** The palm of the right hand faces outwards and the fingers are upright and joined.
3. **Anjali Mudra:** Palms and fingers joined against each other vertically.
4. **Uttarabodhi Mudra:** Index fingers straight up and touching each other

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Vitarka mudra can be practiced with the right hand at shoulder level and the left hand at hip level. This variation of this mudra can be used for meditation and prayer.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Abhaya mudra is performed with the palm of the right-hand facing outwards and the fingers upright and joined. It is a gesture of reassurance and safety.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Anjali mudra is a gesture of reverence and respect. It is performed by pressing the palms and fingers together in front of the heart.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Uttarabodhi mudra is performed with the index fingers straight up and touching each other. It is a yogic hand gesture that is said to promote enlightenment.

**Q9: Consider the following statements regarding Fresco method of painting and choose the incorrect option:**

- (a) A layer of clay, mixed with cow dung and rice husk was applied on the surface of the rock.
- (b) A coating of lime plaster was then applied on the top of it.
- (c) Colours and pigments were then applied on the dry surface.
- (d) This allowed the pigments to seep in and create a lasting image on the rock surface.

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- The paintings done using the Fresco method involved a three-step technique:
  - ❖ A layer of clay, mixed with cow dung and rice husk was applied on the surface of the rock.
  - ❖ A coating of lime plaster was then applied on the top of it.
  - ❖ Colours and pigments were then applied on the moist surface. This allowed the pigments to seep in and create a lasting image on the rock surface. *So, option (c) is incorrect.*
- Example: Dying princess, Flying Apsara, etc.

**Q10: Consider the following statements regarding Pandavleni Caves:**

1. These caves are dedicated to Mahayana faith.
2. Only Satavahanas are depicted in these caverns.

3. There is use of motifs and symbols like throne and footprints.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Pandavleni caves are a collection of ancient Buddhist caves. Pandavleni Caves were developed during 1st century A.D. and belong to the Hinayana period. Under Hinayana sect, his presence is indicated through the use of motifs and symbols like throne and footprints.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Kshatrapas, Satavahanas, and Abhirs are the three kings depicted or mentioned in the Pandavleni Caves.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The throne and footprint motifs are two of the most common motifs found in the Pandavleni Caves. The throne motif is used to represent the Buddha's enlightenment and his status as a universal teacher. The footprint motif is used to represent the Buddha's presence in the world.

**Q11: Recently Sacred Ensembles of Hoysalas was in news. Consider the following statement:**

1. It has been declared as 41<sup>st</sup> UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. It includes temples of Darasuram, Nageshwara and Keshava temple.
3. Hoysalas temples are second UNESCO World Heritage Site of Karnataka.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Sacred Ensembles of Hoysalas in Karnataka, has been declared as 42<sup>nd</sup> UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It includes the temples of Chennakeshava temple (Belur) and Hoysaleswara temple (Halebidu) and Keshava temple (Somanathapur).
- These temples were built during 12th- 13th century.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Hoysalas temples are 4<sup>th</sup> UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) of Karnataka. The other three are Hampi, Pattadakal and Western Ghat.

**Q12: Consider the following pairs related to painting:**

**Paintings**

1. Ravan Chhaya Rock shelter
2. Lepakshi paintings
3. Jogimara cave paintings

**Location**

- Odisha
- Rajasthan
- Gujarat

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Ravan Chhaya Rock shelter painting is located in the Sitabhinji Group of Rock Shelters, near Danguapasi village of Kendujhar (Keonjhar) district of Odisha, India. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- Lepakshi paintings are located at the Veerabhadra Temple in Lepakshi, Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh. **So, option (b) is incorrect.**
- Jogimara cave paintings are located at the Ramgarh Hills, Puta village, Surguja district, Chhattisgarh. **So, option (c) is incorrect.**

**Q13: Consider the following statements regarding the features of paintings in Apabhramsa School of art?**

1. Angular faces
2. Animal figurines are represented as toys
3. Fish-shaped bulging Eyes

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- Apabhramsa school of art features the human figures depicted in the paintings have fish-shaped bulging eyes; a pointed nose and a double chin. **Option (3) is correct.**
- They tried to begin the trend to make angular faces in the third and fourth profile. They figures are usually stiff and even the ornamentation is carefully done. **Option (1) is correct.**
- The female figurines have enlarged hips and breasts. The animal and bird figurines in the paintings are represented as toys. **Option (2) is correct.**
- The most famous example is of Kalpasutra and the Kalakacharya Katha from 15th century.

**Q14: Consider the following statements regarding Miniature art during Delhi Sultanate:**

1. Nimatnama is one of the finest examples of miniature art of this period.
2. This manuscript exhibits Persian styles only.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 Only
- (b) 2 Only
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- These paintings tried to bring together the Persian elements of their origins with the Indian traditional elements.
- They gave preference to illustrated manuscripts and one of the finest examples from this period is the Nimatnama (a book on cookery) during the reign of Nasir Shah who ruled over Mandu. **So, option (1) is correct.**
- This manuscript shows the synthesis of the indigenous and Persian styles. **So, option (2) is incorrect.**

**Q15: Consider the following statement regarding the features of Mughal Painting:**

1. Naturalism
2. Secular
3. A fusion of Persian and Indian style only

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two

- (c) All three  
(d) None

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Mughal painting is known for its realistic portrayals of nature, and many Mughal paintings feature detailed depictions of plants, flowers, animals, and landscapes.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mughal painting is known for its secular themes, and many Mughal paintings depict scenes from everyday life, courtly life, and nature.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mughal painting is a unique blend of artistic influences from Persia, India, and Europe. This fusion is evident in the use of bold colors, intricate details, and realistic portrayals of people and animals.

**Q16: With its rich cultural heritage and architectural splendor, Shantiniketan, has recently been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list (WHS). Consider the following statements:**

1. It has become West Bengal's third UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. Its architecture is a unique blend of Indian, European and Asian influences.
3. The walls are adorned with exquisite murals, frescoes and sculptural friezes.

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

- (a) Only one  
(b) Only two  
(c) All three  
(d) None

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Santiniketan has been designated as the 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) of India. It is the third WHS of West Bengal, after the Sundarbans National Park and the Darjeeling Mountain Railways.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It drew elements from ancient, medieval and folk traditions of India as well as Japanese, Chinese, Persian, Balinese, Burmese and Art Deco forms (Western Europe and the United States).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Murals, frescoes, and sculptural friezes by leading Indian artists adorn at the walls. The walls and corridors of Kalo Bari are adorned with Bharhut, Mahabalipuram, Mohenjodaro, Egyptian and Assyrian motifs.

**Q17: Consider the following statements regarding Kishangarh School of Painting:**

1. It developed under the patronage of Sawai Pratap Singh.
2. Bani Thani painting belongs to this school.
3. Bani Thani masterpiece creation was done by the great artist Nainsukh.

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

- (a) Only one  
(b) Only two  
(c) All three  
(d) None

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Kishangarh School of Painting was developed under the patronage of Raja Savant Singh (1748-1757 CE).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Kishangarh School of paintings gave birth to a style of painting called Bani Thani. It is also popularly entitled as India's Mona Lisa. It is a masterpiece creation by the great artist, Nihal Chand. It is being imprinted by the Indian Government on one of its postal stamps.



- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Unfortunately, only a small number of Kishangarh miniatures are available. Most of them are believed to have been done by the master painter Nihal Chand who, in his works, has been able to create visual images of his master's lyrical compositions.

**Q18: Consider the following pairs:**

Style of Pahari Painting	Features
1. Basohli style	Large use of primary colour
2. Guler style	Large use of secondary colour
3. Kullu-Mandi school	Use of dark and dull colour

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- The Basohli style of painting is characterised by vigorous and bold line and strong glowing colours. These paintings use a lot of primary colours, i.e. red, yellow and green. **So, pair (1) is correct.**
- Guler paintings are in a new naturalistic and delicate style marking a change from the earlier traditions of the Basohli art. The colours used are soft and cool. **So, pair (2) is incorrect.**
- Kullu-Mandi school style is marked by bold drawing and the use of dark and dull colours. Though influence of the Kangra style is observed in certain cases yet the style maintains its distinct folkish character. **So, pair (3) is correct.**

**Q19: Consider the following pairs:**

Folk Painting	Area
1. Sohrai Paintings	Madhya Pradesh
2. Thangka Paintings	Ladakh
3. Kalamezhuthu ★	Tamil Nadu

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Kohvar and Sohrai Paintings belong to the state of Jharkhand. These paintings are practiced exclusively by married women, during weddings and at harvest time, and the traditional skill is passed on to younger females of the clan. **So, pair (1) is incorrect.**
- Thangka Paintings is a Tibetan Buddhist painting on cotton, or silk, usually depicting a Buddhist deity, scene, or mandala. Presently belonging to Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh region and Arunachal Pradesh, Thangka were originally used as a medium of reverence that evoked the highest ideals of Buddhism. **So, pair (2) is correct.**
- Kalam (Kalamezhuthu) is unique form of art found in Kerala. It is similar to rangolis drawn in front of rural houses. It is essentially a ritualistic art practiced in temples and sacred groves of Kerala where the representation of deities like Kali and Lord Ayyappa, are made on the floor. **So, pair (3) is incorrect.**

**Q20: Iconic Saree Weaving Clusters of India are part of the Tentative Lists of States Parties published by the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO. Match the following clusters with the state they are located in:**

Iconic Saree Cluster	State
1. Chanderi:	Madhya Pradesh



- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 2. Paithan:     | Gujarat        |
| 3. Yeola:       | Tamil Nadu     |
| 4. Pochampalli: | Andhra Pradesh |

How many of the above pairs are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Pair 1 is correct:** Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh is one of India's most iconic saree weaving clusters. The town is known for its delicate, lightweight sarees that are made from soft mulberry silk. **So, pair (1) is correct.**
- **Pair 2 is incorrect:** Paithan is a town in the Aurangabad district of Maharashtra. It is known for its iconic Paithani sarees, which are made from pure gold threads and yarns of silk spun in the traditional method.
- **Pair 3 is incorrect:** Iconic saree weaving clusters art form soon spread to the other places in Maharashtra namely Yeola, Pune, Malegaon and Nashik. One can even see motifs from Ajanta cave paintings.
- Yeola, Rajasthan is an iconic saree weaving cluster in India. The town is known for its traditional Rajasthani sarees, which are made from soft cotton and silk.
- **Pair 4 is correct:** Pochampalli, Andhra Pradesh is an iconic saree weaving cluster in India. The town is known for its ikat sarees, which are made from silk or cotton.

**Q21: Consider the following pairs related to the New Parliament Gates:**

**Entrance**

**Inspired by**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Gaja Dwar:   | Shiva Temple at Sihonia, Madhya Pradesh |
| 2. Garuda Dwar: | Vijay Vitthala Temple, Hampi, Karnataka |
| 3. Ashwa Dwar:  | Sun temple, Konark, Odisha              |

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Gaja Dwar: Represents wisdom and wealth, intellect, and memory, and also embodies the aspirations of the elected representatives of the democracy. Inspired by a similar statue at Madhukeshvara Temple at Banabasi, Karnataka. **So, pair (1) is incorrect.**
- Garuda Dwar: Eagle-like Garuda stands, which signifies the aspirations of the people and the administrators of the country. Inspired by a similar statue of Nayaka period sculpture from Kumbhakonam, Tamil Nadu. **So, pair (2) is incorrect.**
- Ashwa Dwar: Horse standing alert and ready which is symbol of endurance and strength, power and speed, also describing the quality of governance. Inspired by a similar statue at the Sun temple, Konark, Odisha. **So, pair (3) is correct.**

**Q22: Consider the following statements about Chhau dance.**

- 1. The dance is performed by the female dancers during night time at an open space.
- 2. It is a blend of both dance and martial practices employing mock combat techniques.
- 3. The theme of the Chhau dance is based on Hindu mythology.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

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

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Chhau is a tribal martial art dance performed mainly in Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal. There are three sub-genres of this dance based on the place of their origin and development, Purulia Chhau (West Bengal), Seraikella Chhau (Jharkhand) and Mayurbhanj Chhau (Odisha).
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The dance is mainly performed during the spring festival and lasts for 13 days. The whole community participates in it. The male dancers dance perform during night time at an open space.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a blend of both dance and martial practices employing mock combat techniques.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The theme of the Chhau dance is based on Hindu mythology. The dancers wear masks during performance except for Mayurbhanj Chhau.

**Q23: Consider the following about Dhrupad, a genre in Hindustani classical music:**

1. It finds mention in Ain-e-Akbari.
2. The phrases of Dhrupad alapa are slow and contemplative initially, but the tempo increases in stages.
3. It is a subset of the Khyal form of classical singing.

Select the Answer using the codes below.

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

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Dhrupad is mentioned in the Ain-e-Akbari, a 16th-century Persian text that documents the Mughal court of Emperor Akbar. This suggests that Dhrupad was a well-established genre of music at that time.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The alapa is the first section of a Dhrupad performance. It is a slow and meditative improvisation that allows the singer to explore the raga (melodic mode) and develop their vocal skills. The tempo of the alapa does increase gradually as the performance progresses, but it remains relatively slow throughout.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Dhrupad is not a subset of the Khyal form of classical singing. In fact, Dhrupad is considered to be the oldest surviving form of Hindustani classical music, while Khyal is a relatively newer form that developed in the 17th century. Khyal is characterized by its faster tempo and more ornate melodies, while Dhrupad is known for its slower tempo and more contemplative style.

**Q24: Consider the following pairs:**

Name of the Music	State of Origin
1. Tikir	Assam
2. Nyioga	Arunachal Pradesh
3. Hekaileu	Nagaland
4. Khubakeshei	Manipur

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one  
(b) Only two  
(c) Only three  
(d) All four

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:****Name of the Music**

Tikir

Ja-jin-ja

Nyioga

Hekaileu

Khubakeshei

**State of Origin**

Assam

Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh

Nagaland

Manipur

**Major themes**

It embodies the teaching of Islam

Sung during marriages

Sung at the end of the marriage ceremony

Songs about oneself

A song accompanied entirely by clapping

**Q25: Consider the following pairs:**

1. Fugdi - Chhattisgarh
2. Cheraw - Mizoram
3. Dalkhai - Odisha
4. Jhoomar - Punjab

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Ans: (c)****Explanation:**

- **Pair 1 is incorrect:** Fugdi is performed in the Konkan region of Goa during festivals by women. They dance in varied formations, mostly in circles or rows. It has many subtypes according to local customs.
- **Pair 2 is correct:** Cheraw is a folk dance of Mizoram and is performed using bamboo sticks. It is likely to have a foreign origin. Men tap long pairs of bamboo in rhythmic beats, and girls dance to the beats of bamboo.
- **Pair 3 is correct:** Dalkhai is mostly performed during the festival of Dussehra in Odisha. The tribes perform it, and many musical instruments are used. Events from Ramayana and Mahabharata, stories of Lord Krishna, etc. are represented.
- **Pair 4 is correct:** Jhoomar is performed by tribal Sikhs in Punjab and adjoining areas during the harvest season. It is performed in a circle. Movement of arms is the most important part, on the tune of the drums. Costumes are the same as in Bhangra. It was carried to India by the traders from Balochistan.

**Q26: It is believed that the design of the old Parliament building was inspired from Chausath Yogini temple. Consider the following statements regarding Chausath Yogini temple:**

1. The central shrine of this temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
2. It was a venue for providing education in astrology and mathematics.
3. It is the only circular temple built in India.

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (b)****Explanation:**

- Chausath Yogini temple is situated in Mitaoli village, in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh.
- It was built around 1323 by King Devapala of the Kachchhapaghata dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It was the venue of providing education in astrology and mathematics based on the transit of the Sun.
- The Archaeological Survey of India has declared the temple an ancient and historical monument.
- It is also known as Ekattarso Mahadeva Temple because of the presence of a multitude of shiva lingas inside its cells.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is circular, with 64 chambers dedicated to the 64 yoginis, and a central shrine dedicated to Shiva.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** There are several circular temples in India
  - ❖ Chausath Yogini Temple, Morena, Madhya Pradesh
  - ❖ 81 Yogini Temple, Bhedaghat, Madhya Pradesh
  - ❖ Rani Ka Vav, Patan, Gujarat
  - ❖ Sun Temple, Konark, Odisha
  - ❖ Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.

**Q27: Consider the following pairs:**

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Statue of Prosperity: | Srinivasa Ramanujan      |
| 2. Statue of Unity:      | Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel |
| 3. Statue of Peace:      | Vijay Vallabh Surishwer  |
| 4. Statue of Equality:   | Nadaprabhu Kempegowda    |

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Name	Dedicated to	Location
Statue of Prosperity	Nadaprabhu Kempegowda	Bengaluru
Statue of Unity	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	Kevadia in Gujarat
Statue of Peace	Vijay Vallabh Surishwer	Rajasthan
Statue of Equality	Srinivasa Ramanujan	Hyderabad

**Q28: Consider the following statements regarding bronze figure of Harappan period:**

**Statement I:** Harappan civilization saw less practice of bronze casting.

**Statement II:** Bronze statues were made using “lost wax technique” or “Cire Perdue”.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (c) Statement-I is correct and Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect and Statement-II is correct.

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Harappan civilisation saw a wide scale practice of bronze casting. The bronze statues were made using “lost wax technique” or “Cire Perdue”. In this technique, wax figures are first coated with wet clay and allowed to dry. The clay coated figures are then heated, allowing the wax inside to melt.
- **Statement II is correct:** The wax is then poured out through a tiny hole and liquid metal is poured inside the hollow mould. After the metal has cooled down and solidified, the clay coat is removed and a metal figure of the same shape as the wax figure is obtained. Even now, the same technique is practiced in many parts of the country.

**Q29: Consider the following statements regarding the features of Stupa and choose the *incorrect* option:**

- (a) The stupa’s core was composed of burnt brick.
- (b) The stupa was capped by a wooden railing.
- (c) Stupa at Sanchi was erected with bricks, then covered with stone during Ashokan Period.
- (d) Gateways were added in addition to the circumambulatory circuit.



**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

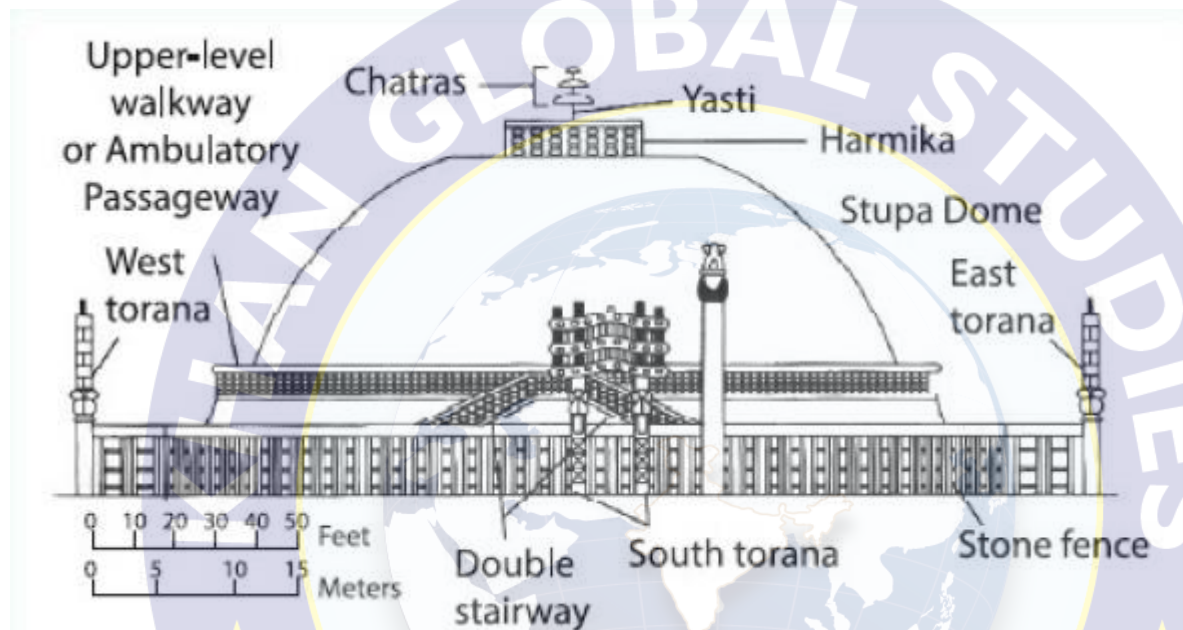
The stupa's core was composed of unburnt brick, with a burnt brick outer face covered in a thick coating of plaster.

**So, option (a) is incorrect.**

The stupa was capped by a wooden railing that encircled a pradakshina walkway (circumambulatory path). **So, option (b) is correct.**

It is a magnificent stupa with a circumambulatory route and a circular mound. During the time of Ashoka, the big stupa at Sanchi was erected with bricks, then covered with stone and many further additions were made. **So, option (c) is correct.**

Gateways were added in addition to the circumambulatory circuit. With the elaborations in stupa design, architects and sculptors had plenty of room to plan elaborations and carve out images. **So, option (d) is correct.**



**Q30: Recently the term “Kokborok” was in news. Consider the following statements and choose the incorrect option:**

- (a) It is the language spoken by the Borok people.
- (b) They belong to Tibeto-Burman family.
- (c) It is one of the state languages of Meghalaya.
- (d) Doulot Ahammad wrote the first Kokborok Grammar.

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- Kokborok is the language spoken by the Borok people belonging to Tripura. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- Borok are branch of Boro people of Assam belonging to Sino-Tibetan linguistic group and racially Mongoloids.
- Kokborok belong to Tibeto-Burman family and has close affinity with other language family like Bodo, Garo, Dimasa etc. **So, option (b) is correct.**
- Doulot Ahammad wrote the first Kokborok Grammar (1897). **So, option (d) is correct.**
- It is one of the state languages of Tripura. **So, option (c) is incorrect.**
- It is declared as official language of Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council.

**Q31: Consider the following statement regarding Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards:**

1. This award is bestowed in the field of visual arts.
2. It carries a Cash prize of ₹5 lakh.
3. The award is presented by the President of India.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, 84 artists were conferred with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a national honour bestowed by the country on performing artists, teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts.
- It is to honour the Indian artists aged above 75 years who have not been accorded any national honour in their career so far.
- This is one-time awards by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Prize money is ₹1 lakh, besides a 'Tamrapatra' and 'Angavastram'.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Award presented by Vice President of India.

**Q32: Consider the following statements regarding pottery during Indus Valley Civilization:**

1. The pottery were classified into plain and painted.
2. Plain pottery was red ware type.
3. Trees, birds, animal figures and geometrical patterns were themes of the paintings.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The potteries found at the excavation sites can be broadly classified into two kinds – plain pottery and painted pottery.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The painted pottery is also known as Red and Black pottery as it used red colour to paint the background and glossy black paint was used to draw designs and figures on the red background.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Trees, birds, animal figures and geometrical patterns were the recurring themes of the paintings.

**Q33: Consider the following statements regarding the Lion Capital of Sarnath and choose the *incorrect* option:**

- (a) Four Asiatic lions are placed back to back, symbolizing strength, courage, pride and confidence.
- (b) A chakra (wheel) is shown in all four directions on the abacus.
- (c) An inverted lotus capital supports the circular abacus.
- (d) Bull is missing among the animal placed between the chakra.

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Option (a) is correct:** Four Asiatic lions are placed back-to-back in the capital, with very powerful facial muscularity, symbolizing strength, courage, pride, and confidence. The sculpture's surface is highly polished, as is typical of the Mauryan era.

**Option (b) is correct:** A chakra (wheel) is shown in all four directions on the abacus (drum on the bell base), with a bull, a horse, an elephant, and a lion between each chakra. There are 24 spokes in each chakra. The Indian National Flag has this 24-spoke chakra.

**Option (c) is correct:** An inverted lotus capital supports the circular abacus. The National Emblem of Independent India is the capital without the shaft, the lotus bell, and the crowning wheel.

**Option (d) is incorrect:** The abacus is likewise arranged such that just one chakra is visible in the center, with the bull on the right and the horse on the left.

**Q34: Consider the following:**

1. Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft
2. Bikaner Kashidakari Craft
3. Jodhpur Bandhej Craft
4. Bikaner Usta Kala Craft

How many of the of the above crafts were given GI Tag recently?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

Recently, various products were given a Geographical Indication (GI) tag which includes:

GI Tag	State	Features
Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft	Rajasthan	Arms and weaponry are adorned with intricate designs through Koftgiri, a mesmerizing technique that employs light metal wires embedded onto darker surfaces.
Bikaner Kashidakari Craft	Rajasthan	Originating from the vibrant cultural tapestry of Bikaner, kashidakari craft is an exquisite craft that has been passed down through generations, primarily practiced by the Meghwal community. This art form is characterized by its intricate stitching and the artful incorporation of mirrors onto cotton, silk, or velvet, often adorning objects related to weddings and gift-giving. The reflective surfaces of the mirrors are imbued with the belief of warding off the 'evil eye', adding a layer of enchantment and symbolism to this remarkable craft.
Jodhpur Bandhej Craft	Rajasthan	Born from the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan, Jodhpur Bandhej is an exquisite art form that involves the meticulous tying and dyeing of fabrics. Muslin, silk, and voile are the canvases upon which this vibrant artistry unfolds, while cotton threads serve as the delicate instruments that transform plain cloth into mesmerizing tapestries of color and pattern.
Bikaner Usta Kala Craft	Rajasthan	Bikaner Usta Kala, an art form that has captivated the world with its intricate gold embellishments, is also known as gold nakashi or gold manauti work. The Ustas, the master craftsmen who perfected this art, adorned walls, ceilings, glass, wood, marble, and even artefacts made of camel leather with their exquisite designs. Their artistry extended to a variety of motifs, including intricate foliage patterns, majestic animals, and graceful birds, each meticulously rendered in shimmering gold.

**Q35: Recently “Mylara” cult was in news. The cult is dedicated to**

- (a) Lord Shiva
- (b) Lord Vishnu
- (c) Lord Murugan
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Recently discovered sculptures in Karnataka has proved the existence of the Mylara cult in the state.



- The members of the Cult worship, (MyLara) Mailara who is a folk deity also identified as a manifestation of **Lord Shiva. So, option (a) is the correct.**
- The deity is often depicted seated, standing or on a horse and he is generally seen holding a sword, trisula (trident), a damaru (hour-glass shaped drum) and a bowl.
- The cult is prevalent in the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

**Q36: Consider the following statements regarding Viharas and choose the incorrect option:**

- (a) Pillars with intricate carvings support the portico.
- (b) Exterior of the viharas were not decorated.
- (c) A square abacus with elaborately carved makara designs sits beneath the capital.
- (d) The cave's walls and ceilings are covered in artwork.

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- The portico is supported by pillars with intricate carvings. Dwarf figures and ornately carved brackets and capitals adorn the square bases of the columns. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- Viharas are known for their well-decorated exteriors. This is because they are not only places of worship, but also important cultural and artistic centers. The exterior decorations of viharas often feature a variety of elements, including Stucco work, carving and painting. **So, option (b) is incorrect.**
- A square abacus with elaborately carved makara designs sits beneath the capital. **So, option (c) is correct.**
- The cave's walls and ceilings are covered in artwork. The monks used these cells as their living quarters. **So, option (d) is correct.**

**Q37: Consider the following statements regarding the features of Gandhara School of Art and choose the incorrect option:**

- (a) The first preaching in the deer park and the Buddha's death is depicted in a Gandhara figure.
- (b) It consists of Buddha image and sculpture depicting scene from Buddhist literature.
- (c) The art of the Gandhara school was primarily Hinayana.
- (d) The school is known for the first sculptural representations of the Buddha in human form.

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- The Gandhara sculptures have been discovered in the Taxila ruins as well as other ancient sites in Afghanistan and Pakistan. They generally consist of Buddha images and relief sculptures depicting scenes from Buddhist literature. **So, option (b) is correct.**
- Several Bodhisattva figures were cut out of the rock. The first preaching in the deer park and the Buddha's death is depicted in a Gandhara figure. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- The predominant focus of this type of painting was Lord Buddha and Bodhisattvas, as it was intimately tied with Mahayana Buddhism. As a result, it's possible that this style was Indian in thought and conception but alien in execution. **So, option (c) is incorrect.**
- Both Shakas and Kushanas were patrons of Gandhara School, which is known for the first sculptural representations of the Buddha in human form. **So, option (d) is correct.**

**Q38: Consider the following statements regarding Seethakali folk art:**

1. It is performed as part of the harvest festival.
2. It is celebrated in the state of Tamil Nadu.
3. It's a blend of songs, storytelling and fast movements.
4. It is based on certain episodes taken from the epic Mahabharata.

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

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All Four



**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Seethakali folk art is performed as part of the harvest festival, Onam in Kerala. From the day of the Atham star to the 28th day after Onam go from one house to another performing this art.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Seethakali folk art is celebrated in Kerala, particularly in the Kollam district. It is a unique and vibrant art form that has been passed down through generations, primarily performed by the Vedar and Pulaya communities.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** It is based on certain episodes taken from the epic Ramayana and portrays characters such as Rama, Seetha, Ravana and Hanuman.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The art is a captivating blend of songs, storytelling, and fast movements that has been captivating audiences in Kerala for centuries. Props and instruments used during performances are all made of natural materials like bamboo and palm leaves. Vibrant coloured costumes and makeup is used.

**Q39: Consider the following statements regarding the Chaityas:**

1. It refers to temple or prayer hall only in Buddhism.
2. Karnataka is home to the ruins of a considerable number of structural Buddhist Chaityas.
3. Chaitya in Bhaja Caves is possibly the earliest surviving chaitya hall.
4. The rock-cut Barabar caves were dedicated to Ajivika monks.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** In Indian religions, a chaitya, chaitya hall, or chaitya-griha is a shrine, sanctuary, temple, or prayer hall. The term is most commonly used in Buddhism to describe a space with a stupa and a rounded apse at the entrance, as well as a high roof with a rounded profile. Chaitya refers to a temple, sanctuary, or any sacred monument in Jainism and Hinduism's ancient scriptures, especially those dealing with buildings.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The eastern parts of Andhra Pradesh are home to the ruins of a considerable number of structural Buddhist Chaityas.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Built in the second century BCE, the chaitya in Bhaja Caves is possibly the earliest surviving chaitya hall.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The rock-cut Barabar Caves (Lomas Rishi Cave and Sudama Cave) were excavated by or for the Ajivikas, a non-Buddhist religious and philosophical organization of the time, during Ashoka's reign.

**Q40: Consider the following statements regarding the sculptural features of Mathura Art and choose the incorrect option:**

- (a) The faces are round and smiling, massiveness and fleshiness was reduced.
- (b) The early images of the Buddha and the Bodhisattva were not happy looking.
- (c) The garments of the body are clearly visible and they cover the left shoulder.
- (d) The halo around the head of Buddha was profusely decorated.

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- The early images of the Buddha and the Bodhisattva are happy, fleshy figures with little spirituality about them. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- The block like compactness and smooth close-fitting robe, almost entirely devoid of folds, are replicated in the earliest standing Buddha image that belongs to the Mathura school. **So, option (b) is incorrect.**
- The volume of the images is projected out of the picture plane, the faces are round and smiling, heaviness in the sculptural volume is reduced to relaxed flesh.

- The garments of the body are clearly visible and they cover the left shoulder. However, in the second century AD, images got sensual with increased rotundness and became flashier. The extreme fleshiness was reduced by the third century AD and the surface features also got refined. **So, option (c) is correct.**
- The trend continued in the fourth century AD but later, the massiveness and fleshiness was reduced further and the flesh became more tightened. The halo around the head of Buddha was profusely decorated. **So, option (d) is correct.**

**Q41: Consider the following statements regarding Anubhava Mantapa and choose the *incorrect* option:**

- It is one of the earliest Parliament in history.
- Prabhudeva was the President and Lord Basaveshwara acted as PM.
- Members were elected directly by the people.
- Bharat Mandapam derives its idea from Anubhav Mantapa.

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, has been named 'Bharat Mandapam'.
- Bharat Mandapam – derives its root from Lord Basaveshwara's (12th century) idea of Anubhav Mantapa. **So, option (d) is correct.**
- Anubhava Mantapa was one of the earliest Parliament in history, where Sharanas (poets and socio-spiritual-reformers) deliberated for reforms in various spheres. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- Prabhudeva, a great Yogi, was the President, and Lord Basaveshwara acted as PM. **So, option (b) is correct.**
- Members were not elected by the people but were picked up or nominated by higher authorities of Mantapa. **So, option (c) is incorrect.**

**Q42: Consider the following statements regarding recently excavated site at Porpanaikottai:**

- The site highlights the lifestyle and cultural practices of the Sangam era.
- The excavation indicates a burial site.
- Excavation indicates trade relations with other country.
- Excavation indicates that the site was famous for weaving industry.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All Four

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Porpanaikottai's archaeological treasures offer valuable insights into the lifestyle and cultural practices of the Sangam era. The site is located in the Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu.
- Sangam Age refers to the period of ancient Tamil Nadu, Kerala, from c. 6th century BCE to c. 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The excavation site indicated a burial site, and the fort area showed signs of water bodies inside the site.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A variety of pottery sherds were found at Porpanaikottai, including Roman amphorae and Indian rouletted ware. These artifacts suggest that Porpanaikottai was part of a network of trade routes that connected India to the Mediterranean region.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The discovery of bone point tools indicated that a Porpanaikottai was a site of the weaving industry.

**Q43: Consider the following statements regarding the features of Sarnath School of Art:**

- More delicacy and refinement.
- Some elements of foreign influence.
- Slim physiognomy.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sarnath Buddhas are probably the greatest single achievement of the Indian sculptor largely establishing the representation of the Buddha that was followed in eastern India and Southeast Asia for many centuries, as well as the general representation of the human body in India. Sarnath School of Art was indigenous; it is devoid of outside influences.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** In contrast to the columnar rigidity of previous Mathura works, Sarnath brings not only a delicacy and refinement of form, but also a relaxed attitude by bending the body slightly on its own axis in the case of the standing figure, thereby adding to it a certain litheness and movement.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The slim physiognomy creates an impression of mobility, the body closely following the modelling in all its minute subtleties, even in the case of the seated figure. The folds have all almost vanished; the only remnants of the draperies are the faint lines on the torso that suggest the garment's boundaries.

**Q44: Consider the following statements regarding Dharmachakra Mudra:**

**Statement I:** Mudras are a non-verbal mode of communication and self-expression in Buddhism.

**Statement II:** This mudra symbolizes Buddha's attainment of enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-II.
- (c) Statement-I is correct and Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect and Statement-II is correct.

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- Dharmachakra means "Wheel of Dharma" in Sanskrit. It represents one of the most significant events in Buddha's life: the first sermon he gave to his companions in the Deer Park at Sarnath following his Enlightenment. As a result, it signifies the turning of the Wheel of the Dharma's teaching.
- **Statement I is correct:** Mudras are a non-verbal mode of communication and self-expression in Buddhism, consisting of hand gestures and finger postures.
- **Statement II is incorrect:** The Dharmachakra Mudra, one of the most important mudras in Buddhism, symbolizes the first sermon of Lord Buddha.

**Q45: Recently Sanskrit poetess Shilabhattacharika was in news. Consider the following statement:**

1. She was the daughter of Chalukyan ruler, Pulakeshin II.
2. She wrote in Panchali style.
3. The Sanskrit poet Rajashekhara lauded her for her exquisite and graceful compositions.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, ancient Copper plates were decoded by Pune-based Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI), shedding light on the ancient Sanskrit poetess Shilabhattacharika.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** She was a Chalukyan princess, possibly the daughter of Pulakeshin II. According to findings, she lived in the 7th century CE rather than the current theory which has her as a wife of the 8th-century Rashtrakuta ruler, Dhruva.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Shilabhattacharika adhere to the Panchali style that calls for a balance of words with their meaning.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Sanskrit poet-critic Rajashekhara (who lived in the 9th-10th century CE) and was the court poet of the Gurjara-Pratihara, has praised Shilabhattacharika for her elegant and beautiful compositions.

**Q46: Consider the following statements regarding Bhūmisparśha Mudra:**

1. This mudra dispel all bad energy to the ground.
2. The left palm on the lap gives birth to knowledge.
3. This Mudra helps to alleviate tension and anxiety.

How many of the above statement is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bhūmisparśha Mudra, also known as the Earth-Touching Mudra, is a Buddhist hand gesture that is often depicted in images of the Buddha. It is a gesture of grounding and stability, and it is believed to help to dispel negative energy and to connect with the earth.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bhūmisparśha Mudra, with the left palm on the lap, is said to give birth to knowledge. This is because the left hand is associated with the receptive side of the brain, which is responsible for intuition, creativity, and imagination. When the left palm is placed on the lap, it helps to open up this side of the brain and to promote the flow of knowledge and inspiration.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Bhūmisparśha Mudra can help to alleviate tension and anxiety. This is because it is a grounding and centering gesture that helps to calm the mind and body.

**Q47: Consider the following statements regarding Ajanta Caves:**

1. It was patronized by the Gupta rulers.
2. Naturalism was absent in the figures of this cave.
3. Chinese Buddhist pilgrims I-tsing gives a vivid account of this cave.

How many of the above statement/(s) are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Buddhist monks inscribed the Ajanta caves under the patronage of the Vakataka rulers, one of them was Harishena.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The figures in these caves were painted with frescoes and exhibit a high level of naturalism. The colors were created from local plants and minerals.
- The paintings' outlines were painted in red, and then the insides were painted. The absence of blue in the paintings is one of the most remarkable elements.
- The paintings are mostly on Buddhism, including Buddha's life and Jataka stories.



- Five of the caves were built during the Hinayana period of Buddhism, while the other 24 were built during the Mahayana period.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Ajanta caves are mentioned in the travel journals of Chinese Buddhist pilgrims Fa Hien and Hieun Tsang.

**Q48: Consider the following pairs regarding Ancient Indian Poetesses:**

Poetesses	Work
1. Gargi:	Wrote hymns in the Rigveda
2. Maitreyi:	An Advaita philosopher
3. Andal:	Composed Nacciyar Tirumoli
4. Akka Mahadevi:	Wrote in vacana form

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Pair 1 is correct:** Gargi (circa 8th century BCE): She challenged the sage Yajnavalkya (writer of Brihadaranyaka Upanishad) with perplexing questions on the issue of atman (soul). She is also said to have written many hymns in the Rigveda.
- **Pair 2 is correct:** Maitreyi (circa 8th century BCE): She is mentioned in the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad as one of two wives of the Vedic sage Yajnavalkya. In the epic Mahabharata and the Gṛhyasūtras, however, Maitreyi is described as an Advaita philosopher who never married.
- **Pair 3 is correct:** Andal (circa 10th century CE): She was the only female in 12 Alvars. Andal composed two works (both in Tamil) - Tiruppavai and Nacciyar Tirumoli.
- **Pair 4 is correct:** Akka Mahadevi (circa 12th BCE): She wrote in the Kannada language and her poems are in the vacana form, a kind of prose poem that has a rhythmic structure in semantics and sentence patterns rather than sound.

**Q49: Consider the following pairs regarding major yantras of Jaipur Observatory:**

Yantra	Function
1. Rama yantra:	Measuring the altitude of stars.
2. Samrat yantra:	Used to find position of the Sun
3. Jaya Prakash:	Used for calculating time
4. Mishra yantra:	Used to depict the time of noon of various cities across the globe

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All Four

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Recently the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has constituted a fresh expert committee for the conservation, reservation, restoration, and proper functionality of the Delhi Jantar Mantar observatory.

Jaipur Observatory houses the greatest number and variety of instruments. They include a number of instruments that are not duplicated at the other sites, such as the Kappala Yantra, Rasivalaya Yantras, and Unnatamsha Yantra etc.

Major Yantras and their functions		
Yantra	Structure	Function

<b>The Rama yantra</b>	It consists of a pair of cylindrical structures, each with a pillar at the centre.	Measuring the altitude of stars. <b>So, pair (1) is correct.</b>
<b>Samrat yantra</b>	This is a large sundial.	Used for calculating and keeping track of time. <b>So, pair (2) is incorrect.</b>
<b>Jaya Prakash</b>	These are two concave hemispherical structures.	Used to find out the position of the Sun and other heavenly bodies. <b>So, pair (3) is incorrect.</b>
<b>Mishra yantra</b>	It is a mixed instrument	This instrument is used to depict the time of noon in various cities across the globe vis-à-vis the local time. <b>So, pair (4) is correct.</b>

**Q50: Consider the following statements regarding Mehrauli Inscription:**

1. This pillar was established by Chandragupta-II of the Gupta dynasty.
2. This pillar credits Chandragupta with conquest of the Vanga and Vakatakas.
3. It was constructed in the honor of Lord Shiva.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mehrauli Iron Pillar is located in Delhi in the Qutub Minar complex. It is notable for the rust resistant composition of the metals used in its construction. This pillar was established by Chandragupta-II of Gupta dynasty
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This pillar credits Chandragupta with conquest of the Vanga countries by his battling alone against the confederacy of the enemies united against him. It also credits him for conquest of Vakatakas in a fight that ran across seven mouths of Indus River.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** This pillar was established as Vishnupada in the honor of Lord Vishnu.

**Q51: Consider the following statements regarding Aihole Inscription and choose the incorrect option:**

- (a) The inscription is written in Kannada language.
- (b) There is a mention about the defeat of Harshavardhana by Pulakeshin II.
- (c) It is written by Ravikirti, the court poet of Pulakeshin II.
- (d) It also mentions about the shifting of the capital from Aihole to Badami.

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Aihole in Karnataka was the first capital of Chalukyas. Many inscriptions were found at Aihole, but the inscription found at Meguti Temple popularly known as Aihole inscription witnessed many historical events of Chalukyas. The inscription is written in Sanskrit and it is in Kannada script. **So, option (a) is incorrect.**
- There is a mention about the defeat of Harshavardhana by Pulakeshin II and the victory of Chalukyas over Pallavas. It also mentions about the shifting of the capital from Aihole to Badami. **So, option (b) and option (d) is correct.**
- Ravikirti, the court poet of Pulakeshin II who reigned from 610 to 642 CE, wrote them. **So, option (c) is correct.**

**Q52: Recently Tungnath temple was in news. This temple is dedicated to**

- (a) Shiva
- (b) Vishnu

- (c) Narsimha  
(d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Archaeological Survey of India has sought approval from Centre to declare the Tunghnath temple as a monument of national importance.
- Temple, situated in Rudraprayag district, is believed to be more than 1,000 years old and founded by Arjuna (third of the Pandava brothers).
- At a latitude of over 12,000 feet, it is the highest Shiva temple in the world. **So, option (a) is correct.**

**Q53: Recently Juna Khatiya Site was in news. Consider the following statements and choose the incorrect option:**

- (a) It is located in Kachchh district in Gujarat.  
(b) Maximum burial structure was in rectangular form.  
(c) It was a late Harappan burial site.  
(d) A peculiar feature of Reserved Slip Ware jars is found from this site.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Since 2018, archaeologists have discovered 500 graves at the Juna Khatiya Site.
- Juna Khatiya is an Early Harappan burial site located in Lakhpat Taluka of Kachchh district in Gujarat. **So, option (c) is the correct answer.**
- Site contains biggest Early Harappan cemetery documented in India so far.
- Other Harappan sites in Gujarat: Lothal, Surkotada, Dholavira etc.
- Burial structures are made of dressed sandstone and majority of them are rectangular in plan followed by oval or circular ones.
- Painting on Reserved Slip Ware jar is peculiar feature noticed.
- Another distinctive feature includes beakers and other smaller vessels, found within larger vessels.

**Q54: Allahabad Prasasti mention different inscriptions. Which of the following inscriptions is/are mentioned in Allahabad Prasasti?**

- (a) Ashokan inscriptions in Brahmi script  
(b) Queen's edict  
(c) Jahangir's inscriptions in Persian.  
(d) All the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

Ashokan Stambh or Allahabad Prasasti has 4 different inscriptions i.e.

- The usual Ashokan inscriptions in Brahmi script as in all pillars. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- The Queen's edict regarding the charitable deeds of Ashoka's wife Kaurwaki. **So, option (b) is correct.**
- Samudragupta's (335AD – 375 A(D) inscriptions written by Harisena in Sanskrit language and Brahmi script. It mentions about the conquests of Samudragupta and boundaries of the Gupta Empire.
- Jahangir's inscriptions in Persian. **So, option (c) is correct.**

**Q55: Consider the following statements regarding salient features of Malwa school of painting:**

1. Painting shows black and chocolate-brown backgrounds.
2. Ragamala is the musical mode of this painting.
3. The painting lacks secular theme.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Malwa paintings show a fondness for rigorously flat compositions, black and chocolate-brown backgrounds, figures shown against a solid colour patch, and architecture painted in lively colour.
- The school's most appealing features are a primitive charm and a simple childlike vision.
- The earliest work in this style is an illustrated version of the Rasikapriyā (1634), followed by a series illustrating a Sanskrit poem called the Amaru Śataka (1652).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** There are also illustrations of the musical modes (Ragamala), the Bhagavata-Purāṇa, and other Hindu devotional and literary works.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Mewar painting in the eighteenth century increasingly became secular and courtly in ambience.

**Q56: Consider the following pairs:**

School	Patronised by
1. Mewar school of Painting:	Jagat Singh
2. Kota School of Painting:	Ram Singh I
3. Bikaner School of Painting:	Karan Singh

How many of the above pair/(s) are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- The reign of Jagat Singh I (1628–1652) is recognised as the period when pictorial aesthetics got reformulated under virtuoso artists Sahibdin and Manohar, who added new vitality to the style and vocabulary of Mewar paintings. **So, pair (1) is correct.**
- By the reign of Ram Singh, I (1686–1708), artists had passionately enlarged their inventory to a large variety of subjects. Kota artists seem to have been the first to render landscape as the real subject of compositions. **So, pair (2) is correct.**
- According to inscriptional evidence, several master artists of the Mughal atelier visited and worked in Bikaner in the seventeenth century. Karan Singh had employed Ustad Ali Raza, who was a master painter from Delhi. His earliest work represents the beginnings of Bikaner School, which can be dated back to around 1650. **So, pair (3) is correct.**

**Q57: Consider the following statements regarding Cham Lama dance:**

1. It is a masked dance unique to Tibetan Buddhism.
2. The dance in itself is seen as a form of meditation.
3. Deva Gyatsho is believed to have started the Cham Dance tradition.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Cham Lama dance is a masked dance unique to Tibetan Buddhism.
- In this Buddhist monks with colourful costumes dance to the sounds of traditional instruments.



- **Statement 2 is correct:** The dance in itself is seen as a form of meditation and mostly practised during festivals like Losar in Buddhist monasteries.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Padma Sambhava (Guru Rinpoche), the founder of Nyingmapa, is believed to have started the Cham Dance tradition.
- The dance often depicts scenes of Padmasambhava's life and his 8 manifestations

**Q58: Consider the following statements regarding Raja Ravi Verma and choose the *incorrect* option:**

- (a) He played a pivotal role in introducing and promoting lithography in India.
- (b) His paintings embody a harmonious blend of Indian and European tradition.
- (c) Viceroy Lord Curzon conferred upon him the coveted Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal.
- (d) He created the masterpiece known as Bharat Mata.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Recently 175th birth anniversary of Raja Ravi Varma was celebrated.
- He was one of the earliest proponents of lithography in India. Lithography refers to art of producing a work on a flat stone or metal plate. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- He is one of the few painters who managed to accomplish a beautiful union of Indian tradition with the techniques of European academic art. **So, option (b) is correct**
- Viceroy Lord Curzon honored him with the Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal for his service in the furtherance of public interest. **So, option (c) is correct**
- His paintings can be classified into three categories – portraits, portrait-based compositions and theatrical compositions based on myths and legends. It is the third category of paintings for which Raja Ravi Varma is most renowned.
- Some of the great paintings of Raja Ravi Varma
  - ❖ Lady Giving Alms at the Temple – This is a common sight even in the present day India.
  - ❖ Lady Lost in Thought – Once again this painting was modelled after a South Indian woman.
  - ❖ Lady with Fruit – Probably modelled after Ravi Varma's mistress; this painting gives you an impression that it was one of Varma's personal favorite.
  - ❖ Lord Krishna as Ambassador – This is one of those paintings that depicted a Hindu deity.
- Bharat Mata is a work painted by the Indian painter Abanindranath Tagore in 1905. **So, option (d) is incorrect.**

**Q59: Consider the following statements regarding Tanjore painting:**

1. These paintings are characterized by their rich vibrant colors, dashes of gold, semi-precious stones and fine artistic work.
2. The figures in these paintings are dwarfed and their faces are devoid of any divine aura.
3. These paintings reached their zenith under the patronage of Maharaja Serfoji II of Maratha dynasty.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Tanjore style of painting is characterised by bold drawing, techniques of shading and the use of pure and brilliant colours flourished at Tanjore in South India during the late 18th and 19th centuries.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The paintings are notable for their adornment in the form of semi-precious stones, pearls, glass pieces and gold and fine artistic work.
- The paintings are mostly of Gods and Goddesses because this art of painting flourished at a time when fine-looking and striking temples were being constructed by rulers of several dynasties.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The figures in these paintings are large and the faces are round and divine. Most of the paintings depict smiling Krishna in various poses and various major events in his life.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** These paintings reached their zenith under the patronage of Maharaja Serfoji II of Maratha dynasty who was a great patron of art.

**Q60: Consider the following pairs:**

Folk Painting	Area
1. Pattachitra	Odisha
2. Patua Art	West Bengal
3. Paitkar Painting	Jharkhand
4. Phad Painting	Rajasthan

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- A traditional painting of Odisha, the name Pattachitra comes from a Sanskrit word patta, which means canvas/cloth and chitra means picture. The paintings show a mix of classical and folk elements, with a bias towards the latter. **So, pair (1) is correct.**
- The art of Bengal, Patua art dates back around a thousand years. It started out as a village tradition by painters telling Mangal Kavyas or auspicious stories of Gods and Goddesses. **So, pair (2) is correct.**
- Practiced by the tribal people of Jharkhand, Paitkar paintings or scroll paintings are considered one of the ancient schools of painting in the country. **So, pair (3) is correct.**
- Phad Painting is predominantly found in Rajasthan and is a scroll-type art. It is religious in nature and comprises of drawings of local deities, Pabuji and Devnarayan. **So, pair (4) is correct.**

**Q61: Consider the following pairs:**

GI Tag	State
1. Manamadurai pottery	Andhra Pradesh
2. Nagri Dubraj rice	Kerala
3. Tawlhlohpuan	Manipur

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Pair 1 is incorrect:** Recently Manamadurai pottery of Sivagangai district, Tamil Nadu got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. A unique type of clay is sourced from water bodies like Nedunkulam, Nathapurakki, Sundaranadappu, Vaigai River which runs through the Manamadurai village enriches the clay used for the pottery.
- **Pair 2 is incorrect:** Chhattisgarh's Nagri Dubraj rice variety got a geographical indication tag. After Jeeraphool rice in 2019, Dubraj is the second brand to get the GI tag.
- **Pair 3 is incorrect:** Tawlhlohpuan has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag GI under the Government of India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. Tawlhlohpuan is a medium to heavy, compactly woven, good quality fabric from Mizoram, known for warp yarns, warping, weaving & intricate handmade designs.

**Q62: Recently "Hakki-Pikki" tribe was in news. Consider the following statements and choose the incorrect option:**

- (a) They are matriarchal group.
- (b) They speak Dravidian language.
- (c) They communicate in 'Vaagri' language.
- (d) UNESCO has identified Vaagri as one of the endangered languages.

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Few members of the Hakki-Pikkis tribe are stranded in Sudan amidst internal war.
- They are predominantly living in Shivamogga, Davanagere and Mysuru districts of Karnataka.
- They are known for knowledge of traditional and herbal medicine that is in high demand in African countries.
- Hakki-Pikkis are said to be a matriarchal group. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- They speak an Indo-Aryan language. **So, option (b) is incorrect.**
- They communicate in 'Vaagri' (mother language) at home but speak in Kannada when conducting daily business. **So, option (c) is correct.**
- UNESCO has listed 'Vaagri' as one of the endangered languages. **So, option (d) is correct.**

**Q63: Consider the following pairs:**

Location	Art
1. Kerala	Well known for painting on ivory
2. Jodhpur	Bangles made of Ivory
3. Jaipur	Famous for its ivory jali work used in homes and small art objects

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- The art of ivory carving and painting has been practiced in Kerala for centuries, and the state is home to some of the most skilled ivory craftsmen in the world. **So, pair (1) is correct.**
- Jodhpur is well known for its ivory bangles. The city has a long tradition of ivory carving and jewelry making, and ivory bangles are one of its most popular products. **So, pair (2) is correct.**
- Jaipur ivory jali work is known for its intricate designs and delicate craftsmanship. The jali work is often decorated with floral patterns, geometric designs, and religious motifs. Ivory jali work from Jaipur is prized for its beauty and quality. **So, pair (3) is correct.**

**Q64: Consider the following pairs:**

Embroidery Craft	State
1. Kashida embroidery -	Kashmir
2. Himroo shawls -	Maharashtra
3. Chamba Rumals -	Rajasthan

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Kashida embroidery is a traditional style of embroidery that originates from the Kashmir region in India. This intricate and colorful embroidery technique is highly regarded for its exquisite craftsmanship and is used to adorn various textiles, including shawls, sarees, suits, and home furnishings. **So, pair (1) is correct.**
- Himroo shawls are traditional handwoven textiles that originate from Maharashtra, particularly from the city of Aurangabad. These shawls are known for their intricate designs, vibrant colors, and luxurious feel. **So, pair (2) is correct.**
- Chamba Rumals are traditional embroidered textiles that originate from the Chamba region of Himachal Pradesh, not Rajasthan. These rumals are highly regarded for their exquisite craftsmanship, intricate embroidery, and historical significance. **So, pair (3) is incorrect.**

**Q65: Consider the following statements regarding Kamakhya Temple:**

1. It is located in Nilachala Hills.
2. The temple is dedicated to Mother Shakti and Lord Shiva only.
3. The temple after destruction was reconstructed by Koch dynasty.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Recently Bhutan's King visited Kamakhya Temple.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Considered the oldest of 51 Shakti Peethas, Kamakhya temple is located in Nilachala Hills in Guwahati, Assam.
- It is an important pilgrimage centre of Tantrik Shaktism cult and Hindus.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is dedicated to different forms of Mother Shakti and also houses temples for Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu.
- Ambubachi Mela is held every year to commemorate the yearly menstruation of Goddess Kamakhya.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The former temple was destroyed by Kala Pahar, which was later reconstructed in 1565 by Chilarai, reigning king of the Koch dynasty.

**Q66: Consider the following statements regarding Thumri style of music popularly heard in concerts:**

**Statement I:** It consists of the song uttered in fast note patterns in short bursts.

**Statement II:** It is set to different ragas observing the moods of the mind.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct and Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect and Statement-II is correct.

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement I is incorrect:** Thumri is not known for fast note patterns in short bursts. This is the characteristic of Tappa style, not Thumri. The structure and presentation of Thumri are very lyrical. These forms are "semi" or Tihai classical. Thumri is a love song, and therefore the textual beauty is essential. Thumri is closely coordinated with the musical rendition.
- **Statement II is correct:** Thumri music is set to different ragas observing the moods of the mind. Keeping in mind its mood, Thumri is usually set to ragas like Kaphi, Khamaj, Bhairavi and so on and the musical grammar is not strictly adhered to.

**Q67: Consider the following statements:**

1. Tillana usually finds a place in Carnatic classical music concerts as an introductory piece.



2. "Khyal" of Hindustani music is the antithetical of "Pallavi" of Carnatic music.
3. Tanam is a branch of raga alapana, which shows the rhythmic flow of music.

Select the Answer using the codes below.

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

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Tillana is a rhythmic piece of music that is typically performed at the end of a Carnatic classical music concert.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Khyal and pallavi are both central elements of their respective musical traditions, and they are not antithetical. Khyal is a form of vocal improvisation in Hindustani music, while pallavi is a form of extended raga alapana in Carnatic music.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Tanam is a branch of raga alapana that focuses on the rhythmic aspects of the raga. It is typically performed in a fast tempo and involves the use of complex rhythmic patterns.

**Q68: Recently Kondaveedu Fort was in news. Consider the following statements and choose the incorrect option:**

- (a) It was constructed by Reddy dynasty.
- (b) It was the capital of Reddy dynasty.
- (c) It was located south of Cauvery River.
- (d) It has been controlled by Vijayanagara Emperor and British.

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- Recently Andhra Pradesh's Forest Department has given permissions to the NGO to set up a gallery at Kondaveedu Fort.
- It was constructed by Prolaya Vema Reddy, founder of the Reddy dynasty.
- It is located south of the Krishna River, near Guntur. **So option (c) is incorrect.**
- It has been controlled by Vijayanagara emperor, British etc. because of its strategic location.
- Reddy dynasty (1325–1448 CE) controlled the Coastal Andhra (from Vishakapatnam in the north to Kanchipuram in the south).
- The capital was Kondaveedu Fort (Earlier capital was at Addanki).

**Q69: Recently St. Philomena's Cathedral was in news. Consider the following statements:**

1. It was built in Neo-Gothic style.
2. Neo-Gothic structures are larger in size than the Gothic structures.
3. Gothic Architecture is distinguished by its use of pointed arches, ribbed vaults and expansive windows.
4. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus and the Victoria Memorial exemplify the grandeur of Gothic architecture in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- St. Philomena's Cathedral in Mysuru (Karnataka) is facing conservation challenges.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Built in Neo-Gothic style in 1840, it gained popularity under reign of Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, ruler of Mysore (1894-1940).
- Neo-Gothic Architecture
  - ❖ Originated in England in 18th century.

- ❖ **Statement 2 is correct:** Neo-Gothic structures are larger in size than Gothic structures.
- Gothic Architecture
  - ❖ Prevalent in Europe between mid-12th century to 16<sup>th</sup> century.
  - ❖ **Statement 3 is correct:** It's characterized by pointed arches, ribbed vaults, large windows with stained glass, etc.
  - ❖ **Statement 4 is correct:** Examples of Gothic architecture are Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai; Victoria Public Hall and Park Town, Chennai; Victoria Memorial in Kolkata; Mysore Palace.

**Q70: The Senia tradition is**

- (a) Musical tradition that invoked the name of Tansen, the celebrated musician of Akbar's Court.
- (b) Amir Khusro was associated with this tradition.
- (c) Feast ritual of the tribes living at the border of eastern UP and Chhattisgarh.
- (d) A musical tradition that emerged from the Mughal Sena.

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- The word "Senia" is related to Tansen, who is the father of Indian classical music. The word "Gharana" suggests a style of music. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- Tansen's school of music is widely known as the followers of "Senia Gharana" (i.e., "Seniya" school of music).
- Tansen was a vocalist, but this tradition has also produced great Sitar Maestros.
- The "Senia" style of Sitar playing started with the great master of Sitar, Ustad Maseet Sen from the family of Tansen. Ustad Masit Sen is the originator of "Masitkhani" style.

**Q71: Daskathia is a form of**

- (a) Ballad singing prevalent in Odisha.
- (b) Puppetry popular in Rajasthan.
- (c) Tribal miniature painting practised in Nilgiris.
- (d) Folk dance of Manipuri indigenous population.

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- The art form exclusive to Odisha, Daskathia is usually performed by two men, the singer and his assistant and is simpler than a Pala. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- Daskathia is a name derived from a unique musical instrument called "Kathi" or "Ram Tali", wooden clappers used during the presentation.
- The performance is in the form of worship and offering on behalf of the "Das", the devotee.

**Q72: Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** Maand is folk music from the state of Rajasthan.

**Statement II:** The songs are generally about women fetching water from the nearby well.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (c) Statement-I is correct and Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect and Statement-II is correct.

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement I is correct:** Maand is a folk music from the state of Rajasthan. It is said to have developed in the royal courts and is also recognised in the classical circles.
- **Statement II is incorrect:** This is neither accepted as a full-fledged Raga nor is it reckoned among the freely rendered folk songs. The songs are usually about the bards singing the glory of the Rajput rulers.

**Q73: Recently Matua community was in news. Consider the following statements:**

1. Shri Shankar Deva established the Matua sect.
2. The community migrated to India during Partition and after the creation of Bangladesh.
3. They were given the status of Kulina Brahmin.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Recently Prime Minister has urged people to visit Matua Maha Mela in West Bengal. Mela is organised on the birth anniversary of Shri Harichand Thakur (1812-1878), who was the founder of the sect of Vaishnavite Hinduism called Matua.
- He wrote couplets in Bengali and stressed on education and strong organisation as the primary modes of community empowerment.
- He wanted to establish a classless, casteless society.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Matuas migrated to India during Partition and after the creation of Bangladesh.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Matuas are Namasudras, a Scheduled Caste group considered untouchable during 19th C.E.

**Q74: Recently Kattunayakan tribe was in news. Consider the following statements:**

1. The lead role of Oscar-winning documentary "Elephant Whisperers" belongs to this tribe.
2. This tribe falls under the category of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India.
3. This tribe is located in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- The 'Elephant Whisperers' directed by Kartiki Gonsalves and produced by Guneet Monga won the best documentary short film at the 95th Academy Awards. It is the first Indian film to win an Oscar in this category.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Oscar award to documentary Elephant Whisperers is a tribute to conservation legacy of the Kattunayakan tribe.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** They are one of the 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of India.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Found in parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala (Nilgiris and surrounding region).
- Their language is a mixture of all Dravidian languages.
- Religion practices are strongly rooted in their culture and worship animals, birds, trees, rocks and snakes and almost everything natural.

**Q75: Consider the following pairs:**

Name of the Music	State of Origin
1. Naatupura Paatu	Karnataka
2. Dollu Kunita	Tamil Nadu
3. Sohar	Bihar

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one

- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Pair 1 is incorrect:** Naatupura Paatu is a form of folk music that is sung and danced to during festivals and celebrations in Tamil Nadu. Naatupura Paatu songs are typically sung by women and are used to praise the gods and goddesses, to celebrate the harvest, and to mark other important events in the community.
- **Pair 2 is incorrect:** Dollu Kunitha is a popular folk-dance form that is performed by the Kuruba Gowda community of North Karnataka. Dollu Kunitha is a high-energy dance that is performed to the beat of drums and other traditional instruments.
- **Pair 3 is correct:** Sohar is a form of folk music that is sung during childbirth and is associated with the Magadhi language, which is spoken in Bihar.

**Q76: Consider the following:**

1. Natyashastra
2. Abhinaya Darpana
3. Civaka Cintamani

Which among the above literature are sources of the Bharatnatyam dance?

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

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Option 1 is correct:** The origin of the Bharatanatyam dance can be traced to the sage Bharata Muni's Natyashastra.
- **Option 2 is correct:** Abhinaya Darpana was written by Nandikesvara around the 4th — 5th century BCE. Abhinaya Darpana is the main source that helps in the study of the technique and grammar of body movement in Bharatnatyam Dance.
- **Option 3 is incorrect:** Sangam works like Silappatikaram and Manimekalai also contain traces of the Bharatnatyam Dance.

**Q77: Consider the following:**

1. Mridangam
2. Violin
3. Cymbal

Which of the above mentioned musical instruments are part of Kuchipudi dance?

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

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

Kuchipudi dance is accompanied by the classical school of Carnatic music.

The accompanying musicians, besides the vocalist are

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A mridangam player to provide percussion music,
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A violin or veena player or both for providing instrumental melodic music, and
- **Statement 3 is correct:** A cymbal player who usually conducts the orchestra and recites the sollukattus (mnemonic rhythm syllables).



**Q78: Consider the following pairs:**

<b>Festival</b>	<b>States</b>
1. Siang Unying Festival	Arunachal Pradesh
2. Cheiraoba festival	Manipur
3. Hornbill Festival	Nagaland

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Pair 1 is correct:** Siang Unying Festival is an important festival of Adi community was celebrated at Boleng, Arunachal Pradesh. It is celebrated to mark beginning of Adi community's new year i.e., arrival of spring season; and to strengthen the bond among community.
- **Pair 2 is correct:** Cheiraoba festival in Manipur is celebrated during the month of April, a part of the ritual entails villagers climbing the nearest hill tops in belief that it will enable them to rise to greater heights in their worldly life.
- **Pair 3 is correct:** Hornbill Festival is organized by Nagaland State Government. It started in the year 2000 and is now held every year from 1st December. The Hornbill Festival is normally celebrated for 10 days starting from 1st December.

**Q79: Recently Charaideo Maidams or Moidams was in news. Consider the following statements:**

1. These earthen mounds serve as majestic mausoleums for the Ahom dynasty's esteemed rulers.
2. The Changrung Phukan provides detailed information about it.
3. These vaulted chambers are often double storied.
4. The mound's foundation is strengthened by a polygonal toe-wall that enhances its stability.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The Government of India has decided to nominate Assam's Charaideo Maidams or Moidams (Ahom Burial Mounds) for the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for the year 2023.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Charaideo Maidams are mounds containing the remains of the royalty of the Ahom dynasty. Mounds are located along the foothills of the Patkai range. These are commonly known as the Pyramids of Assam.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Changrung Phukan (canonical text developed by the Ahoms) provides detail about the different aspects of the Maidams.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** They are vaulted chamber. They are often double storied. Hemispherical mud-mound layers of bricks and earth is laid at the top.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The base of the mound is reinforced by a polygonal toe-wall and an arched gateway on the west. Each vaulted chamber has a centrally raised platform where the body was laid.

**Q80: Consider the following statements regarding Mohiniyattam:**

**Statement I:** It generally narrates the story of the feminine dance of Vishnu.

**Statement II:** The Lasya aspect of dance is dominant in this dance form.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (c) Statement-I is correct and Statement-II is incorrect.
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect and Statement-II is correct.

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Mohiniattam combines the grace and elegance of Bharatanatyam with the vigour of Kathakali. There is a marked absence of thumping of footsteps, and the footwork is gentle.
- **Statement I is correct:** Mohiniattam generally narrates the story of the feminine dance of Vishnu. It has its own Nritya and Nritya aspects like that of other classical dances.
- **Statement II is correct:** The Lasya aspect (beauty, grace) of dance is dominant in a Mohiniattam recital. Hence, it is mainly performed by female dancers.

**Q81: Consider the following pairs:**

Dance	State
1. Saraikela chhau	Assam
2. Mayurbhanj chhau	Odisha
3. Purulia chhau	West Bengal

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Chhau originates from Chhaya' meaning shadow. It is a form of mask dance that uses rigorous martial movements to narrate mythological stories.

Some narrations also use natural themes such as Sarpa nritya (serpent dance) or Mayur Nritya (peacock dance).

There are three main Chhau dance styles:

- 1. Saraikela Chhau in Jharkhand. **So, pair (1) is incorrect**
- 2. Mayurbhanj Chhau in Odisha. **So, pair (2) is correct**
- 3. Purulia Chhau in West Bengal. **So, pair (3) is correct**

Of these, Mayurbhanj Chhau artists don't wear masks.

In 2010, UNESCO inscribed Chhau in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

**Q82: Consider the following pairs regarding Stupa:**

Architectural Features	Indicate
1. Anda:	Hemispherical mound
2. Harmika:	Central pillar supporting a triple-umbrella form
3. Toranas:	Decorated gateways

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Recently Archeological Survey of India discovered two 1200- year-old miniature votive stupas at Nalanda Mahavihara.

- Votive stupas (offered in fulfillment of a vow) were discovered near Sarai Tila mound within premises of Nalanda Mahavihara in Bihar.
- Stupa, Sanskrit for heap, is a mound-like (hemispherical) burial structure containing relics of Buddhist monks.
- Architectural features of Stupa:
  - ❖ **Pair 1 is correct:** A hemispherical mound or Anda's shaped dome
  - ❖ **Pair 2 is incorrect:** A square railing or harmika
  - ❖ Central pillar supporting a triple-umbrella form (chattras), representing three jewels of Buddhism.
  - ❖ **Pair 3 is correct:** Enclosure wall with decorated gateways (toranas) at cardinal directions.

**Q83: Recently "Thullal" dance form was in news. Consider the following statements:**

1. It is a dance form of Kerala.
2. Musical instrument includes mridangam and cymbals.
3. This dance form is characterized by its elegant simplicity.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ottanthullal (or Thullal) is a recite-and-dance art-form of Kerala that is famous for its humour and social satire.
- It was introduced in 18th century by legendary poet Kunchan Nambiar.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is marked by its simplicity as opposed to more complex dance-forms like Kathakali and Koodiyattam.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Thullal performer is supported by a singer who repeats the verses and is accompanied by an orchestra of mridangam or thoppimaddalam (percussions) and cymbals.
- It has spawned into three separate versions which include Ottanthullal, Seethankan thullal and Parayan thullal.

**Q84: Consider the following statements regarding Padma Awards:**

1. Award does not amount to a title.
2. Total number of awards to be given in a year should not be more than 120.
3. There is no cash prize.
4. The award is generally not presented posthumously, but exceptions are considered.

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India. It was instituted in 1954, it is announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day except for brief interruption(s) during 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997. Award does not amount to a title and cannot be used as a suffix or prefix.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Total number of awards to be given in a year (excluding posthumous awards and to NRI/foreigners/OCIs) should not be more than 120.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Awardees are presented a Sanad (certificate) signed by the President and a medallion. There is no cash prize.

- **Statement 4 is correct:** Award is normally not conferred posthumously (exception for highly deserving cases).
- A higher category of Padma award can be conferred only where a period of at least five years has elapsed (exception can be made) since conferment of earlier Padma award.

**Q85: Which State is famous for special type of leather footwear called Mojadis?**

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Jammu & Kashmir

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Currently, leather is mostly used to make footwear, bags and wallets.
- The biggest market of leather is in Rajasthan where camel leather is used to make bags of various shapes and sizes.
- Apart from these, Jaipur and Jodhpur are famous for Mojadis, which are specific types of leather footwear. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- Another major centre in Uttar Pradesh is Kanpur whose economy is sustained to a large level by leather and tanned products.
- Maharashtra is also famous for its kolhapuri chappals.

**Q86: The oldest written reference to puppeting is found in**

- (a) Natyashastra
- (b) Silappadikaaram
- (c) Sama Veda
- (d) Shakuntalam

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Puppetry has long been of interest in India, both for education and entertainment purposes. The excavation sites at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro have yielded puppets with sockets attached to them which suggest the presence of puppetry as an art form.
- Oldest written reference to puppetry has been found at Tamil classic Silappadikaaram written around 1st and 2nd Century BC. **So, option (b) is correct.**
- Although puppetry has found references in mythology and art but due to the lack of a devoted audience and financial insecurity, there has been a steady decline in this art form.

**Q87: Consider the following statement regarding the features of String puppets:**

1. It is often known as marionettes.
2. Oil paint is not used.
3. The string puppets are usually made of wood.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** String puppets, often known as marionettes, have an important role in Indian culture. String puppets have the following characteristics:
  - ❖ **Statement 3 is correct:** The string puppets are usually made of wood and are eight to nine inches tall.



- ❖ **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Oil paint is used to paint the wood and to add additional face characteristics such as eyes, mouth, nose, and other facial features.
- ❖ The limbs are formed by joining little wooden pipes to the body. The body is then stitched and wrapped with a colorful little garment.

**Q88: Which of the following is not correctly matched?**

- (a) Kundhei – Rod Puppet
- (b) Kathputli – String Puppet
- (c) Ravanchhaya – Shadow Puppet
- (d) Pavakoothu – Glove Puppet

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

States	Name of the puppet show	Kind of Puppet
Andhra Pradesh	Tholu Bommalata	Shadow puppet
Andhra Pradesh	Koyya Bommalata	String Puppet
Karnataka	Gombeyatta	Shadow puppet
Karnataka	Togalu Gombeyatta	String Puppet
Orissa	Ravanachhaya	Shadow puppet
Orissa	Kundhei	String Puppet ( <i>So, (a) is the incorrectly matched</i> )
Kerala	Pavakoothu	Glove Puppet

**Q89: Yampuri is a**

- (a) Martial art
- (b) Puppetry form
- (c) Folk dance
- (d) Folk music

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- The traditional Rod puppet of Bihar is known as Yampuri. These puppets are made of wood. **So, option (a) is correct.**
- Unlike the traditional Rod puppets of West Bengal and Orissa, these puppets are in one piece and have no joints.
- As these puppets have no joints, the manipulation is different from other Rod puppets and requires greater dexterity.

**Q90: Consider the following statements:**

1. The Great Bengal Circus was formed in 1887 by Priyanath Bose.
2. The Great Indian Circus was founded by Baburao Kadam.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 Only
- (b) 2 Only
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- Giuseppe Chiarini's Royal Italian Circus toured India in 1879.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Chiarini sold much of the circus equipment to Vishnupant Chatre. He founded the Great Indian Circus, a new circus company, within a year. This is India's first circus company. Vishnupant Chatre is called the Father of Indian Circus.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Great Bengal Circus was formed in 1887 by Priyanath Bose of Bengal, and it toured Bengal, India, and Southeast Asia.

**Q91: Consider the following statements about Dada Saheb Phalke award:**

1. It is awarded by the Sahitya Academy.
2. It is the India's highest award in cinema.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 Only
- (b) 2 Only
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Introduced in 1969, the Dada Saheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in cinema to commemorate Dada Saheb Phalke (1870-1944), the legendary film-maker who made India's first full-length feature film, Raja Harishchandra (1913).
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is awarded by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organization set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- It is given for outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema and is selected by a committee consisting of eminent personalities from the Indian film industry.

**Q92: Consider the following statements regarding Nagarjuna:**

1. He was expert in transforming the base metals into gold.
2. He wrote a treatise Rasratnakara.
3. He also wrote Uttaratantra, which deals with preparation of medicinal drugs.

Choose from the following options.

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

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** One of the famous alchemist of ancient times was Nagarjuna. He was an expert in transforming the base metals into gold. Born in Gujarat in 931 AD, Nagarjuna was blessed with this power of changing base metals into gold and extraction of "Elixir of life" as per the beliefs of the people.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He wrote a treatise Rasaratnakara, a book on chemistry and is in the form of dialogue between him and the Gods. The treatise mainly deals with preparation of liquids (mainly mercury). The book also emphasised on the survey of metallurgy and alchemy. To prepare the elixir of life from mercury, Nagarjuna used animal and vegetable products apart from minerals and alkalis.
- He also discussed the transmutation of base metals into gold. The gold could not be produced but the method has been useful in producing metals with gold like yellowish brilliance which even helps in manufacturing imitation jewellery.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Nagarjuna also wrote Uttaratantra which is a supplement to Sushruta Samhita and deals with preparation of medicinal drugs.
- Four ayurvedic treatises have also been written by him in the later years when his interest shifted in organic chemistry and medicine.

**Q93: Consider the following statements about Pari Khanda:**

**Statement I:** It is a form of martial art from Jharkhand.

**Statement II:** It forms the basis of Chhau dance.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I

- (c) Statement-I is correct and Statement-II is incorrect  
(d) Statement-I is incorrect and Statement-II is correct

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement I is incorrect:** Pari-khanda: Pari-khanda, created by Rajputs, is a form of martial art from Bihar. It involves fighting using a sword and shield.
- **Statement II is correct:** Still practiced in many parts of Bihar, its steps and techniques are widely used in Chhau dance. In fact this martial art forms the basis of Chhau dance in which all its elements are absorbed.
- The name of this martial art consists of two words, 'Pari' that means shield while 'khanda' refers to sword, thus the use of both sword and shield in this art.

**Q94: Consider the following:**

1. Gyan Panchami
2. Paryushana
3. Ulambana

Which of the above mentioned are Jain festivals?

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

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Option 3 is incorrect:** Ullambana, or the Ghost Festival, is the most popular Buddhist festival. On this day, it is believed that the "Gates of the Hell" are opened and the dead souls visit their loved ones.
- During this festival, offerings are made to the spirits of the dead and to the hungry ghosts in order to bring good fortune and luck.
- **Option 1 is correct:** Gyan Panchami is a festival that celebrates the knowledge of the Jain scriptures. It is celebrated on the fifth day of the bright fortnight of the month of Chaitra.
- **Option 2 is correct:** Paryushana is the most important festival of the Jain calendar. It is an eight-day festival that is celebrated in the month of Bhadrapada. Paryushana is a time for spiritual reflection and repentance.

**Q95: Consider the following statements regarding Nyaya School:**

1. They believe in the technique of logical thinking.
2. Their techniques help humans to control their mind, body and sensory organs.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 Only  
(b) 2 Only  
(c) 1 and 2  
(d) None of the above

**Ans: (a)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Nyaya School of Indian philosophy is known for its emphasis on logic and reasoning. They believe that logical thinking is the key to understanding the world and achieving liberation.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The goal of the Nyaya School is not to control the mind, body, and sensory organs. Instead, their goal is to use logic and reasoning to understand the nature of reality and achieve liberation from suffering.

**Q96: Consider the following pairs regarding the Noble truth of Buddha's teaching:**

**Noble Truth**

**Meaning**

1. Nirodha: The truth of the origin of suffering

2. Magga: The truth of the cessation of suffering  
3. Samudaya: The truth of the path to the cessation of suffering

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- (a) Only one  
(b) Only two  
(c) All three  
(d) None

**Ans: (d)**

**Explanation:**

- The basic tenets of Buddhism are explained through the four major Noble truths. They are
  - The truth of suffering (Dukkha)
  - Pair 3 is incorrect:** The truth of the origin of suffering (Samudaya)
  - Pair 1 is incorrect:** The truth of the cessation of suffering (Nirodha)
  - Pair 2 is incorrect:** The truth of the path to the cessation of suffering (Magga)

**Q97: Consider the following statements about Abhidhamma Pitaka:**

- It is a scripture of Mahayana Buddhism.
- It contains Buddhist philosophy.
- It was first compiled in Sanskrit and then translated to Prakrit.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect:** Abhidhamma Pitaka is a scripture of Theravada Buddhism, not Mahayana Buddhism. Mahayana Buddhism has its own set of scriptures, the most important of which is the Prajnaparamita Sutra.
- Statement 2 is correct:** Abhidhamma Pitaka contains Buddhist philosophy. It is a collection of texts that deals with the psychological and philosophical aspects of Buddhism.
- Statement 3 is incorrect:** Abhidhamma Pitaka was first compiled in Pali, not Sanskrit. Pali is a Middle Indo-Aryan language that is closely related to Sanskrit. It is the language of the Theravada Buddhist scriptures.

**Q98: Consider the following statements regarding Digambara School:**

- Digambaras follow all the constraints except brahmacharya.
- Female monks known as Aryikas are clad in unstitched plain white sarees.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- (a) 1 Only  
(b) 2 Only  
(c) 1 and 2  
(d) None of the above

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Monks of the Digambara tradition do not wear clothes as this sect believes in complete nudity.
- Statement 2 is correct:** Female monks wear unstitched plain white sarees and are called Aryikas.
- Statement 1 is incorrect:** Digambaras follow all the five constraints (Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya, Aparigraha and Brahmacharya) as per the teachings of Mahavira, unlike Svetambaras.
- Bhadrabahu was an exponent of Digambara sect, and he moved to Karnataka along with his disciples after predicting a long famine.
- The earliest record of Digambara beliefs is contained in the Prakrit Suttapahuda of Kundakunda.



- Digambara Jains believe that women can't be Tirthankaras and that Malli was a man
- Monasticism rules are more rigid under Digambara School.

**Q99: Consider the following statements:**

1. Jainism believed that nirvana could be achieved by pursuance of Triratna and Panchamahavrata.
2. Monastic life is not essential for salvation.
3. The householders followed Anuvrata practice.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

**Ans: (c)**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Jainism believed that the main goal of human life is the purification of soul and attainment of nirvana (moksha), which means freedom from birth and death. This can be achieved not through rituals and sacrifices but by pursuance of triratna and panchamahavrata.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** To attain Nirvana, a man must abandon all trammels, including his clothes. Only by a long course of fasting, self-mortification, study and meditation, can he rid himself of Karma. Hence a monastic life is essential for salvation.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Householders were expected to observe milder form of the practice of these virtues called anuvrata (small vows) in comparison to the monks.
- So, one can notice that while the Brahmanism was a ritual oriented religion this new faith was conduct-oriented.

**Q100: "Samadhi Maran" is related to which Philosophy?**

- (a) Buddhist philosophy
- (b) Jain philosophy
- (c) Yoga philosophy
- (d) Lokayata philosophy

**Ans: (b)**

**Explanation:**

- Samadhi Maran, Sallekhana, Sanyasna Maran is the last vow prescribed by Jain ethical code of conduct. **So, option (b) is correct.**
- Jain ascetics and lay votaries at the end of their life observe the vow of Samadhi Maran by gradually reducing the intake of food and liquid.
- It is allowed when normal life is not possible due to old age, incurable disease, or when a person is nearing his end.



**KHAN SIR**

