

Art & Culture — UPSC Prelims PYQ

212 Questions (1995–2025) | UnlockIAS

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— 2025 —

UPSC 2025

Art & Culture › Music

easy

Q 18. * M 0 % . ' (M ' 0 M 5 . 9 > 5 ? & M / > 2 / ' , K 8 @ \$ * M 0 6 ? M 7 # 5 ? & M / > 2 / % > , 5 & M 5 > 0 > 1 9 0 1 . G 9 > 8 M % > * ? \$? / > / > % > ?

- (a) & ? 2 M 2 @
- (b) M 5 > 2 ? / 0
- (c) M H (
- (d) 2 > 9 L 0

Answer: (d)

Pandit Vishnu Digambar Paluskar founded the first Gandharva Mahavidyalaya on 5 May 1901 in Lahore, opening formal Hindustani music education to the public; later branches in Gwalior, Delhi etc. were set up only after this.
([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vishnu_Digambar_Paluskar?utm_source=openai))(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vishnu_Digambar_Paluskar?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2025

Art & Culture › Cultural Institutions & Awards

easy

Q 93. (? . M (2 ? ? \$. G 8 G ? 8 (G 8 M % > * ? \$ ' > ' @ 6 > \$? * A 0 8 M > 0 ' G * M 0 > * M \$ 0 B * @ 8 . ? \$? 9 K \$ @ 9 H ?
I. - > 0 \$ > 0 > 7 M M 0 * \$?
II. - > 0 \$ > * M 0 ' > (. \$ M 0 @
III. - > 0 \$ > . A M / (M / > / > ' @ 6
IV. 2 K 8 - > . G * M 0 \$? * M 7 > (G \$ >
(@ G & ? B > * M 0 / K 0 8 9 @ \$ M \$ 0 A (? d

- (a) G 5 2 I 0 IV
- (b) I , II 0 III
- (c) II , III 0 IV
- (d) G 5 2 I 0 III

Answer: (c)

The five-member jury that selects the Gandhi Peace Prize is chaired by the Prime Minister and includes the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, plus two eminent persons. The President is NOT a member. Thus statements II, III and IV are correct, making option (c) right.
([pib.gov.in](https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1566242&utm_source=openai))(https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1566242&utm_source=openai))

— 2024 —

Q54. With reference to ancient India, Gautama Buddha was generally known by which of the following epithets?

1. Nayaputta
2. Shakyamuni
3. Tathagata

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 1, 2 and 3
 (d) None of the above are epithets of Gautama Buddha

Answer: (b)

Gautama Buddha is widely referred to as Shakyamuni ('Sage of the Shakyas') and frequently calls himself Tathagata ('Thus-Come/Thus-Gone One') in the Pali Canon. 'Nayaputta' (or Nigantha Nataputta) is an epithet of Mahavira, the 24th Jain Tirthankara, not of the Buddha. Hence only 2 and 3 are epithets of Gautama Buddha.

([asia.si.edu](https://asia.si.edu/glossary/shakyamuni/?utm_source=openai))

Q 58. (? . M (2 ? ? \$ % (K * 0 5 ? > 0 @ ? :

1. * (? 7 & K . G K (@ \$? - % > (& (M \$ % >) (9 @ 9 H d
2. * (? 7 & K @ 0 (> * A 0 > # K 8 G - @ * 9 2 G 9 A d

*** 0 M / A M \$ % (K . G 8 G L (- 8 > / L (- 8 G 8 9 @ 9 H / 9 H ?**

- (a) G 5 2 1
(b) G 5 2 2
 (c) 1 0 2 & K (K
 (d) (\$ K 1 , (9 @ 2

Answer: (b)

1' Several Upanishads employ illustrative stories or parables—e.g., the chariot allegor Upanishad and the Satyakama J b la narrative in Chandogya—so it is wrong to say there tales ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katha_Upanishad?utm_source=open oldest (major) Upanishads date to c. 800-300 BCE, whereas the bulk of the Puranas were composed much later, roughly 400-1500 CE

([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Upanishad?utm_source=openai)). Therefore only statement 2 is correct.

Q60. Which one of the following was the latest inclusion in the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO?

- (a) Chhau dance
- (b) Durga puja
- (c) Garba dance**
- (d) Kumbh mela

Answer: (c)

Garba of Gujarat was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on 6 December 2023, making it the most recent Indian inclusion before the 2024 exam. Earlier inscriptions were Chhau dance (2010), Kumbh Mela (2017) and Durga Puja (2021); hence Garba is the latest. ([unesco.org](https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/garba-gujarat-inscribed-unesco-representative-list-in-tangible-cultural-heritage-humanity?utm_source=openai))

Q63. Which one of the following is a work attributed to playwright Bhasa?

- (a) Kavyalankara
- (b) Natyashastra
- (c) Madhyama-vyayoga**
- (d) Mahabhashya

Answer: (c)

Madhyama-vy yoga is one of the thirteen extant Sanskrit plays attributed to the classical playwright Bhasa. The other options are not his works: Kavya laEk ra is a poetics treatise by Bh maha, N m Bharata Muni, and Mah bh cya is Patañjali's commentary on Panini. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhyamavyayoga?utm_source=openai))

Q64. Sanghabhuti, an Indian Buddhist monk, who travelled to China at the end of the fourth century AD, was the author of a commentary on:

- (a) Prajnaparamita Sutra
- (b) Visuddhimagga
- (c) Sarvastivada Vinaya**
- (d) Lalitavistara

Answer: (c)

Sources on early Sino-Indian Buddhist exchanges record that the 4th-century monk SaEg a commentary on the Sarv stiv da Vinaya, parts of which he helped transmit to China. He was not associated with commentaries on the Prajñ p ramit Sktras, Visuddhimagga, or Lalitavistara. ([iasexpress.net/ie-pedia/sanghabhuti-an-indian-buddhist-monk-who-travelled-to-china-at-the-end-of-the-fourth-century-ad-was-the-author-of-a-commentary-on/?utm_source=openai])

- Q 65. Which of the following Indian properties were inscribed by UNESCO in 2023?
1. G52, G52 & K
 2. G52, G52 & K
 3. G52, G52 & K
 4. G52, G52 & K

Which of the following Indian properties were inscribed by UNESCO in 2023?

- (a) G52
- (b) G52 & K
- (c) G52, G52 & K
- (d) G52, G52 & K

Answer: (b)

In 2023 UNESCO inscribed only two Indian properties: Santiniketan (West Bengal) and the 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas' in Karnataka. Rani-ki-Vav was added earlier in 2014 ([[whc.unesco.org](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/922/?utm_source=openai)](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/922/?utm_source=openai)) and the Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya in 2002 ([[whc.unesco.org](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1056/?utm_source=openai)](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1056/?utm_source=openai)), so exactly two of the four listed sites were included in 2023.

— 2023 —

- Q 41. Which of the following Indian properties were inscribed by UNESCO in 2023?
1. G52, G52 & K
 2. G52, G52 & K
 3. G52, G52 & K
 4. G52, G52 & K

- (a) G52
- (b) G52, G52 & K
- (c) G52, G52 & K
- (d) G52, G52 & K

Answer: (a)

Dhanyakataka (also known as Dharanikota) was situated near present-day Amaravati on the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh. It flourished under the later Z tavanahas as an important Buddhist centre, hence, among the regions listed, it belonged to Andhra. Therefore, option (a) is correct.

Q42. *M0> @ (->0\$ G 8 &0M- .G , (? .M(2? ?\$ %(K *0 5? >0 @ ? :
 1. '>\$A @ 8 0 (> .G 2L9-\$\$M5 > 8.>5G6 %>d
 2. '>\$A />\$ *0 50K'K > (?/ \$M0# %>d
 3. 2L9 *\$M\$(.G '>\$A 8 2M*(- '@ (/> 8.>(M/ 8 2M*(> 9K\$@ %@ d
 *0M/A M\$.G 8G ?\$(G %(89@ 9H ?

- (a) G 5 2
- (b) G 5 2 & K**
- (c) 8 - @ \$ @ (
- (d) K - @ (9 @

Answer: (b)

Stupa-like 'heaps' are mentioned in Vedic texts such as the Zgveda, so the concept prece
 Statement 1 is therefore incorrect. Statements 2 and 3 are correct because, in Buddhist practice, stupas
 primarily enshrine relics and also serve as votive/commemorative monuments. Since exactly two statements
 are correct, option (b) is the right choice. ([[edukemy.com](https://www.edukemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2023-question-paper-with-answer-key-general-studies-paper-1/)](<https://www.edukemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2023-question-paper-with-answer-key-general-studies-paper-1/>))

Q44. Which one of the following explains the practice of 'Vattakirutal' as mentioned in Sangam poems?

- (a) Kings employing women bodyguards
- (b) Learned persons assembling in royal courts to discuss religious and philosophical matters
- (c) Young girls keeping watch over agricultural fields and driving away birds and animals
- (d) A king defeated in a battle committing ritual suicide by starving himself to death**

Answer: (d)

'Vattakirutal' (literally 'facing north and fasting') described in Sangam poems refers to the ritual suicide by a
 defeated Tamil king or warrior who sits facing north and starves to death to preserve honour. It has nothing
 to do with female bodyguards, scholarly assemblies, or girls guarding fields; hence option (d) is correct. ([[edukemy.com](https://www.edukemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2023-question-paper-with-answer-key-general-studies-paper-1/)](<https://www.edukemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2023-question-paper-with-answer-key-general-studies-paper-1/>))

Q46. With reference to ancient Indian History, consider the following pairs :

Literary work : Author

1. Devichandragupta : Bilhana
2. Hammira-Mahakavya : Nayachandra Suri
3. Milinda-panha : Nagarjuna
4. Nitivakyamrita : Somadeva Suri

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

Devichandraguptam is credited to Vi[khadatta, not BilhaGa ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devichandraguptam?utm_source=openai)); Hammira-Mahakavya was composed by the Jain poet Nayachandra Skri ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammira_Mahakavya?utm_source=openai)); Milinda-Pañha records a dialogue of the monk N gasena, not N g rjuna ([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Milinda-panha?utm_source=openai)); by the Jain scholar Somadeva Skri ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somadeva_Suri?utm_source=openai)). Thus exactly two pairs (2 and 4) are correct.

Q47. "Souls are not only the property of animal and plant life, but also of rocks, running water and many other natural objects not looked on as living by other religious sects."

The above statement reflects one of the core beliefs of which one of the following religious sects of ancient India?

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism**
- (c) Shaivism
- (d) Vaishnavism

Answer: (b)

Jainism teaches that every element of nature—including earth, water, fire, air and vegetation, as well as seemingly inanimate objects like rocks—possesses a soul (jiva) capable of sensation; this is a core belief from Buddhist or Hindu schools ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C4%ABva_%28Jainism%29?utm_source=openai)). Hence the statement reflects the Jain belief system.

Q81. With reference to the Indian History, Alexander Rea, A. H. Longhurst, Robert Sewell, James Burgess and Walter Elliot were associated with

- (a) **archaeological excavations**
- (b) establishment of English Press in Colonial India
- (c) establishment of Churches in Princely States
- (d) construction of railways in Colonial India

Answer: (a)

Alexander Rea, A. H. Longhurst, Robert Sewell, James Burgess and Walter Elliot were all British scholars who served in the Archaeological Survey of India or carried out major archaeological surveys and excavations (e.g., Longhurst at Nagarjunakonda, Burgess as ASI Director-General). They had no role in founding the English press, churches, or railways, so the group is associated with archaeological excavations. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Rea?utm_source=openai))

Q82. Consider the following pairs:

Site — Well known for

1. Besnagar : Shaivite cave shrine
2. Bhaja : Buddhist cave shrine
3. Sittanavasal : Jain cave shrine

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

Bhaja is an early Buddhist rock-cut cave complex in Maharashtra, and Sittanavasal cave in Tamil Nadu is a Jain shrine with mural paintings; both pairs are correctly matched. Besnagar (Vidisha) is famous for the Heliodorus pillar and has no Shaivite cave shrine, so Pair 1 is mismatched. Hence exactly two pairs are correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhaja_Caves?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2022

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

moderate

Q55. ->0\$@/ \$?9>8 G 8(M&0M- .G , (? .M(2? ?\$.B2 M0 %K *0 5? >0 @ ?

1. (G\$?*M0 0#

2. *0?6?7M *0M5(

3. 5&>(6\$

4. \$M0?67M ?62> > *A0A7

* /A M\$.G L(-8G H(M0 % 9H ?

(a) 1, 2 0 3

(b) G 5 2 2 0 4

(c) 1, 3 0 4

(d) 2, 3 0 4

Answer: (b)

'Parishishtaparvan' (also called Sthaviravali-charitra) and 'Trishashti-shalaka-purusha-charitra' are 12th-century Sanskrit Jain works by Hemachandra. 'NettipakaraGa/Netiprakarana' belongs to Buddhist Khuddaka Nikaya, while 'Avadana[atata]' is a Sarvastivada Buddhist collection. Only 2 and 4 are Jain texts.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parishishtaparvan?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2022

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

moderate

Q56. With reference to Indian history, consider the following pairs :

Historical person — Known as

1. Aryadeva — Jaina scholar

2. Dignaga — Buddhist scholar

3. Nathamuni — Vaishnava scholar

How many pairs given above are correctly matched ?

(a) None of the pairs

(b) Only one pair

(c) Only two pairs

(d) All three pairs

Answer: (c)

Aryadeva was a 3rd-century Mahayana Buddhist Madhyamaka philosopher, not a Jaina. Dignaga (c. 480-540 CE) was the seminal Buddhist logician of the Pramāṇya school, and Nathamuni (8th century) was the first acharya of the Sri Vaishnava tradition. Thus two pairs (2 and 3) are correctly matched.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aryadeva?utm_source=openai))

- Q93. *M0> @(& M7?# ->0\$.G 8 . 8>9?\$M/ G ,>0G .G , (? .M(2? ?\$ %(K
 (a) 8 . 5?\$> .G -L\$? 8 8M C\$? > K 8(M&0M- (9@ 9H d
 (b) C7? > 8>. > ? 50M#(8 . 5?/K G &M5>0> 9A d
 (c) 8 . 5?\$> .G 8.0 6H2@ > K 8(M&0M- (9@ 9H d
 (d) 8 . 8>9?\$M/ .G >&A \$> \$K K 8.>(, \$>/> /> 9H d
- (a) %((a)
 (b) %((b)
 (c) %((c)
 (d) %((d)

Answer: (b)

Sangam poems contain plentiful references to crops, cattle, fishing tools and weapons, and celebrate warrior ethics; they also mention the mystical force 'ananku'. They do, however, provide detailed social portrayals of agrarian life, making statement (b) the sole correct option.
 ([forumias.com](https://forumias.com/blog/answer-key-upsc-ias-cse-prelims-2022-gs-paper-1-questions/))

- Q96. 9>2 9@ .G , *M0'>(. \$M0@ (G &M5>0 > .G 8K.(>% . &?0 G (? (80
 8K.(>% . &?0 G ,>0G .G (? .M(2? ?\$ %(K .G L(-8G 89@ 9H ?
 1. 8K.(>% . &?0 M/K\$?0M2? &G5-. &?0K .G 8G 9H d
 2. 2-,0B(@ (G 8K.(>% . &?0 > 50M#(?/> 9H d
 3. 8K.(>% . &?0 @ *M0>#-*M0\$?7M > (G . &?0 @ 8M%>*(>) 0>7M M0*\$
 %@ d
 (@ G &? B > *M0/K 0 89@ \$M\$0 A(? :
- (a) G52 1 0 2
 (b) G52 2 0 3
 (c) G52 1 0 3
 (d) 1, 2 0 3

Answer: (d)

1) Somnath is one of the twelve traditional Jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva. 2) The 11th-century scholar-traveller Al-Biruni described the wealth and fame of the Somnath temple. 3) After its post-Independence reconstruction, President Dr. Rajendra Prasad performed the pran-pratishtha on 11 May 1951. Because all three statements are correct, option (d) is right.
 ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somnath_Temple?utm_source=openai))

Q31. With reference to the Chausath Yogini Temple situated near Mitaoli (Morena), consider the following statements:

1. It is a circular temple built during the reign of the Kachchhapaghata dynasty.
2. It is the only circular temple built in India.
3. It was meant to promote the Vaishnava cult in the region.
4. Its design has given rise to a popular belief that it inspired the Indian Parliament building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

The Chausath Yogini shrine is an 11th-century circular temple of the Kachchhapaghata dynasty (statement 1 correct). India has other circular temples (e.g., Ranipur-Jharial in Odisha), so statement 2 is wrong. The temple is Shakta/Tantric, not Vaishnava, so statement 3 is wrong. Its plan is popularly believed to have influenced the design of the Parliament House, making statement 4 correct. Hence only 1 and 4 are true. ([iasuniverse.com](https://www.iasuniverse.com/answers-with-explanation-upsc-prelims-gs1-paper-2021/4/?utm_source=openai))

Q 39. (? .M (2? ?\$ % (K *0 5? >0 @ ? :

1. 8 \$ +M0> 8?8 G5?/0, G8A 8 (0M!0) G 8 8M%>* 8&8M/K .G 8G
2. 8 \$ +M0> 8?8 G5?/0 @ .C\$M/A K5> .G 9A \$%> (M9G 59> 8.0M*?\$
3. K5> .G *M0\$? 50M7 8 \$ +M0> 8?8 G5?/0 G -K > (A7M >(?/> >\$> S
 */A M\$ %(K .G 8G L(-8> 89@ 9H/9H ?

- (a) G 5 2 1 0 2
 (b) G 5 2 2 0 3
 (c) G 5 2 1 0 3
 (d) 1, 2 0 3

Answer: (c)

1 ' Francis Xavier was one of the first seven companions who founded the Society of Jesus. He died on Shangchuan (Sancian) Island off China in 1552; his body was later enshrined at the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Goa, so he did not die in Goa. 3 ' Goa celebrates his feast every year, with a minor feast (Nov-3 Dec) and the main feast on 3 December at Old Goa. Therefore only statements 1 and 3 are correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Xavier?utm_source=openai))

Q41. *M0> @ (->0\$ G \$?9>8 G 8 &0M- .G , -5-B\$?, 90M7 5 6G 0 M/K *

- (a) H(8>'A
(b) (> >0
 (c) .(M&?0 5>8M\$A6?2M* @
 (d) &>0M6(?)

Answer: (b)

Bhavabhkti (7-8 th c.) is celebrated for Sanskrit dramas such as Uttararamacharita; sou tradition list the 13-century author Hastimalla as a noted dramatist; and Kchemeshvara Kchemendra/Kchemeshwara) was similarly known for Sanskrit plays. All three, therefore playwrights. ([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Bhavabhuti?utm_source=openai))

Q49. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Ajanta Caves lie in the gorge of Waghora river.**
 (b) Sanchi Stupa lies in the gorge of Chambal river.
 (c) Pandu-lena Cave Shrines lie in the gorge of Narmada river.
 (d) Amaravati Stupa lies in the gorge of Godavari river.

Answer: (a)

The Ajanta caves are hewn into the steep, horseshoe-shaped gorge of the Waghora (Waghur) River in Maharashtra. Sanchi is on a plateau near the Betwa, Pandu-lena (Nasik) overlooks the Godavari valley, and the Amaravati stupa stands on the Krishna plain—not in the stated river gorges—so options (b), (c) and (d) are incorrect. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ajanta_Caves))

Q95. ->0\$ G 8 &0M- .G '9H2@, 9K 0 9A0M0G' *0 ?88G 8.M, '?\$ 9H ?

- (a) *6M ?.K\$M\$0 ->0\$ > (C\$M/ 0B*
(b) >/,> >(
 (c) *M0> H\$?9>8? A+> ?\$M0 2>
 (d) (>\$@/ ->7>

Answer: (b)

“Hali/Haley, Ho and Hurre” are traditional work-songs and calls used by tea-garden labourers (particularly in the plantations of Assam and North-East India). They accompany plucking and community celebrations, and are not dance forms, cave art or tribal languages. Hence they are associated with tea gardens, making option (b) correct. (Author’s note: very limited written documentation exists; the terms appear in ethnographic studies of Assam tea-estate folklore.)

Q31. With reference to the cultural history of India, which one of the following is the correct description of the term "paramitas"?

- (a) The earliest Dharmashastra texts written in aphoristic (sutra) style
- (b) Philosophical schools that did not accept the authority of Vedas
- (c) Perfections whose attainment led to the Bodhisattva path**
- (d) Powerful merchant guilds of early medieval South India

Answer: (c)

In Buddhist philosophy, particularly the Mahayana tradition, 'paramitas' are the six-or-ten 'perfections' (dāna, [śīla, kṣānti, vīrya, dhyaṇa, prajñā, etc.) that a Bodhisattva must perform on the path to Buddhahood. The term is unrelated to Dharmashastra texts, heterodox schools, or medieval merchant guilds. ([dalvoy.com](https://www.dalvoy.com/upsc/previous-years/2020/paramitas-culture-history-india-bodhisattva-path-perfections?utm_source=openai))

Q36. With reference to the scholars/litterateurs of ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. Panini is associated with Pushyamitra Shunga.
2. Amarasimha is associated with Harshavardhana.
3. Kalidasa is associated with Chandra Gupta – II.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Panini lived around the 6th-4th century BCE, long before the Shunga king Pushyamitra, so Statement 1 is false. Amarasimha is traditionally counted among the 'Navaratnas' at the Gupta court of Vikramaditya/Chandragupta II, not that of Harsha, making Statement 2 false. Kalidasa is also associated with Chandragupta II, so only Statement 3 is correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P%C4%81%E1%B9%87ini?utm_source=openai))

— 2019 —

Q 8. (? . M (2 ? ? \$. G 8 G ? 8 - > 0 . B O M \$? 2 > (0 ? 2 @ + 8 M 2 M * M 0) 6 ? 2 > 2 G . G 6 K ' (0 > > 6 K) \$ M @ 0 M # 9 H ?

- (a) (9 2 M 2 ?**
- (b) 8 > @
- (c) 6 > 9 , >] @
- (d) 8 K 9 L 0 >

Answer: (a)

Excavations at Kanaganahalli (Sannati, Karnataka) unearthed a stupa slab bearing a relief portrait identified by the Prakrit legend "Ranyo Asoko" (King Ashoka) – the first known sculptural representation of the Mauryan emperor. Such an inscribed portrait is absent at Sanchi, Shahbazgarhi (rock edict) or Sohgaura (copper plate). Hence Kanaganahalli is the correct answer. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanaganahalli?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2019

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

easy

Q9. Which of the following is/are features of Mahayana schools?

1. Emphasis on Bodhisattva path

2. Deification of Buddha

3. Elaborate image-worship practices

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (d)

Mahayana schools divinised the Buddha as a transcendent saviour (deification), emphasised the Bodhisattva path of compassion for all beings, and incorporated image-worship and elaborate practices. All three listed features therefore pertain to Mahayana, making option (d) correct.

([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Buddhism/Mahayana))

UPSC 2019

Art & Culture › Architecture & World Heritage

easy

Q11. Building 'Kalyana Mandapas' was a notable feature in the temple construction in the kingdom of

- (a) Chalukya
 (b) Chandela
 (c) Rashtrakuta
 (d) Vijayanagara

Answer: (d)

Marriage-halls (Kalyana Mandapas) adorned with carved pillars became a hallmark of Vijayanagara sacred architecture, exemplified by the Kalyana Mandapa inside Hampi's Vittala temple; such structures are absent from Chalukya, Chandela or Rashtrakuta temples.

([edukemy.com](https://edukemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2019-question-11/?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2019

Art & Culture › Music

moderate

Q16. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) Tansen was a contemporary of Akbar.
 (b) Tansen was a contemporary of Jahangir.
 (c) Tansen was a contemporary of Shah Jahan.
 (d) Tansen was a contemporary of Aurangzeb.

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

Answer: (a)

The honorific 'Tansen' was conferred earlier by the ruler of Gwalior; Akbar later gave him the title 'Mian', not 'Tansen', so statement (a) is incorrect ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tansen)). Tansen indeed composed Dhrupads on Hindu deities and on his patrons and is credited with creating new ragas such as Miyan ki Malhar ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tansen)). The statement (b) is the incorrect statement and (c) is the right choice.

UPSC 2019

Art & Culture › Music

easy

Q 17. (. G 8 G ? 8 . A Z 2 8 . M 0 > (G 8 @ \$ 0 > ? # ? / K 8 G ' M / > (9 > 0 5 M / > 5 9 > 0 8 M 5 0 B * - 8 ? & M ' ? / K * 0 ' ? K 0 & ? / > ?

- (a) 9 A . > / B
 (b) , 0
 (c) 9 > @ 0
 (d) 6 > 9 9 >

Answer: (c)

Emperor Jahangir shifted royal patronage away from the old raga-ragini pictorial tradition toward more structured, practical and scientific treatment of form and technique in the arts, including music; hence option (c) is correct. The other emperors are not specifically associated with this change ([testbook.com](https://testbook.com/questions/hn/upsc-prelims-art-and-culture-previous-year-questions--64663c0793aba19c860dd424)).

— 2018 —

UPSC 2018

Art & Culture › Festivals, Crafts & Folk Traditions

moderate

Q22. Consider the following pairs:

Tradition — State

1. Chapchar Kut festival — Mizoram
2. Khongjom Parba ballad — Manipur
3. Thang-Ta dance — Sikkim

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Chapchar Kut is the spring festival of Mizoram and Khongjom Parba is a Manipuri ballad recounting the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri war, so pairs 1 and 2 are correct. Thang-Ta is a Manipuri martial-dance form, not from Sikkim, so pair 3 is incorrect. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapchar%C3%A2r_K%C3%BBt?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2018

Art & Culture › Painting & Visual Arts

easy

Q42. The well-known painting "Bani Thani" belongs to the

- (a) Bundi school
 (b) Jaipur school
 (c) Kangra school
 (d) Kishangarh school

Answer: (d)

"Bani Thani," often dubbed the 'Indian Mona Lisa,' is the best-known masterpiece of the Kishangarh school of Rajasthan miniature painting; it is not associated with Bundi, Jaipur or Kangra styles. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bani_Thani?utm_source=openai))

Q 44. ->0\$ G 8> 8M C\$? \$?9>8 G 8 &0M- .G , (? .M(2? ?\$ %(K *0 5? >0
 1. \$M/> 0> @ '? > 6 C\$?/> - 5>(C7M# @ 8M\$A\$? G - M\$? @\$ 9H d
 2. \$M/> 0> (G (G (0> K > 8C (?/>d
 3. (M(.> >0M/ 0 \$M/> 0> 8. >2@(9H d
 4. (M(.> >0M/ @0M\$(- 5>(5G G6M50 @ 8M\$A\$? G - M\$? @\$ 9H d
 */A M\$ %(K .G 8G L(-8G 89@ 9H ?

- (a) G 5 2 1 0 3
(b) G 5 2 2 0 4
 (c) 1, 2 0 3
 (d) 2, 3 0 4

Answer: (b)

1) Tyagaraja's thousands of kritis praise Lord Rama, not Krishna, so statement 1 is wrong. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chakkani_Rajamargamu?utm_source=openai)) 2) Music historians credit Tyagaraja with creating dozens of new ragas, making statement 2 correct. ([hinduismtoday.com](https://www.hinduismtoday.com/educational-insights/indias-remarkable-carnatic-musician-saints/?utm_source=openai)) 3) Annamacharya (1408–1503) lived about three centuries before Tyagaraja (1767–1847); they were not contemporaries, so statement 3 is incorrect. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annamacharya?utm_source=openai)) 4) Annamacharya's kirtanas are devotional hymns to Lord Venkateswara, so statement 4 is correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annamacharya)) Hence only statements 2 and 4 are correct, matching option (b).

Q54. Consider the following pairs:

Craft — Heritage of

1. Puthukkuli shawls — Tamil Nadu
2. Sujni embroidery — Maharashtra
3. Uppada Jamdani saris — Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Puthukkuli (Poothkuli) shawls are woven and embroidered by the Toda tribe of the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu, so Pair 1 is correct. Sujni (Sujani) embroidery originates from Muzaffarpur in Bihar, not Maharashtra, and Uppada Jamdani saris are hand-woven in Uppada, East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, not Karnataka; therefore Pairs 2 and 3 are incorrect. Hence only Pair 1 is correct. ([testbook.com](https://testbook.com/question-answer/consider-the-following-pairs-craft--5f3636967bcaa80d0e1dfd7d?utm_source=openai))

Q71. With reference to the religious practices in India, the “Sthanakvasi” sect belongs to

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism**
- (c) Vaishnavism
- (d) Shaivism

Answer: (b)

Sthanakvasi is a non-idolatrous sub-sect of the Svetambara branch of JAINISM; it rejects and performs rituals in 'sthanaks' (meeting halls). Hence option (b) Jainism is correct, while Buddhism, Vaishnavism and Shaivism are unrelated. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sthanakvasi))

Q72. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements:

1. White marble was used in making Buland Darwaza and Khanqah at Fatehpur Sikri.
 2. Red sandstone and marble were used in making Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza at Lucknow.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: (d)

1. Buland Darwaza and the Khanqah at Fatehpur Sikri are built mainly of RED SANDSTONE with white-marble inlay—not wholly of white marble—so statement 1 is wrong. 2. Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza at Lucknow were constructed chiefly with lakhauri BRICKS and lime-stucco, using little or no red sandstone or marble, so statement 2 is also wrong. Therefore neither statement is correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buland_Darwaza))

Q74. In Buddhist eschatology, the bodhisattva destined to become the NEXT or 'future' Buddha who will appear on earth to renew the Dharma is

- (a) Avalokiteshvara
- (b) Lokeshvara
- (c) Maitreya**
- (d) Padmapani

Answer: (c)

In Buddhist eschatology Maitreya (Pali Metteyya) is the bodhisattva destined to become the NEXT or 'future' Buddha who will appear on earth to renew the Dharma. Avalokiteshvara/Padmapani and Lokeshvara are compassionate bodhisattvas but not the prophesied future Buddha. ([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Maitreya-Buddhism))

UPSC 2017

Art & Culture › Music

moderate

Q18. ->0\$@/ 8 8M C\$? G 8(M&0M- .G , (? .M(2? ?\$ % (K *0 5? >0 @ ? :

1. /9 (C\$M/ 0 8 @\$ > .?6M0# 9Hd

2. G 5 2 0M(> (8 @\$) 9@ 59 .>\$M0 *0.M*0> 9H ?88G 8 > &M ..>(> >

3. /9 - 5>(C7M# G @5(0 2@2> K 50M#?\$ 0(G 9G\$A *M0&0M6?\$?/>

* /A M\$ % (K .G 8G L(-8>/8G 89@ 9H/9H ?

- (a) 1, 2 0 3
(b) G 5 2 1 0 3
 (c) G 5 2 2 0 3
 (d) G 5 2 1

Answer: (b)

Manipuri Sankirtana is a performance tradition that combines song and dance (Statement 1 correct) and narrates the life and deeds of Lord Krishna (Statement 3 correct). It is not derived solely from the Carnatic music tradition—various local (Meitei Vaishnava) musical idioms are integral—so Statement 2 is incorrect. ([ich.unesco.org](https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/sankirtana-ritual-singing-drumming-and-dancing-of-manipur-00843?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2017

Art & Culture › Painting & Visual Arts

easy

Q69. The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at

- (a) Ajanta**
 (b) Badami
 (c) Bagh
 (d) Ellora

Answer: (a)

The celebrated mural of Bodhisattva Padmapani is located in Cave 1 of the Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra. The painting is neither in Badami, Bagh nor Ellora, all of which contain other forms of rock-cut art. ([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/art/Bodhisattva-Padmapani?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2017

Art & Culture › Festivals, Crafts & Folk Traditions

moderate

Q70. Consider the following pairs:

Traditions — Communities

1. Chaliha Sahib Festival — Sindhis
2. Nanda Raj Jaat Yatra — Gonds
3. Wari-Warkari — Santhals

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

- (a) 1 only**
 (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 1 and 3 only
 (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

The Chaliha Sahib festival is indeed celebrated by the Sindhi community, while Nanda Raj Jaat is a pilgrimage of Garhwali/Kumaoni people of Uttarakhand, not the Gonds, and the Wari-Warkari (Pandharpur Wari) is a tradition of the Marathi Warkari sect, not the Santhals. Hence only pair 1 is correctly matched. ([insightsonindia.com](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2017/06/19/answer-key-upsc-civil-services-prelims-exam-2017-general-studies-paper-1/?utm_source=openai))

Q75. Which of the following is/are famous for Sun temples?

1. Arasavalli
2. Amarkantak
3. Omkareshwar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

Arasavalli in Andhra Pradesh is home to the Arasavalli Surya Narayana temple, one of the few major temples dedicated to the Sun god in India. Amarkantak is a pilgrimage centre famed for the Narmada origin and Kalachuri-period Shiva temples, while Omkareshwar is a Jyotirlinga shrine of Lord Shiva, not Surya. Hence only site 1 is associated with a Sun temple.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arasavalli_Sun_Temple?utm_source=openai))

— 2016 —

Q10. Which one of the following books of ancient India has the love story of the son of the founder of Sunga dynasty?

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

Answer: (b)

Kalidasa's play "Malavikagnimitra" recounts the romance of King Agnimitra—the son of Pushyamitra Zunga, founder of the Zunga dynasty—with the court maiden Malavika. The other works listed deal with different protagonists: "Swapnavasavadatta" (Bhasa) centres on King Udayana, "Meghadoota" is a lyrical poem, and "Ratnavali" (Harsha) depicts King Udayana's love story. Hence option (b) is correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malavikagnimitra?utm_source=openai))

Q50. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. The concept of Bodhisattva is central to Hinayana sect of Buddhism.
 2. Bodhisattva is a compassionate one on his way to enlightenment.
 3. Bodhisattva delays achieving his own salvation to help all sentient beings on their path to it.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

The Bodhisattva ideal—an enlightened being who postpones entry into nirvana out of compassion to help other beings—is the hallmark of Mahayana Buddhism, not the Hinayana/Theravada tradition; hence statement 1 is wrong. Statements 2 and 3 correctly describe a Bodhisattva as compassionate and deliberately delaying personal salvation for the sake of all sentient beings.

([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Buddhism/Mahayana?utm_source=openai))

Q65. What is/are common to the two historical places known as Ajanta and Mahabalipuram?

1. Both were built in the same period.
2. Both belong to the same religious denomination.
3. Both have rock-cut monuments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only**
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None of the statements given above is correct

Answer: (b)

Ajanta caves (2nd century BCE–6th century CE, Buddhist) and Mahabalipuram monuments (7th–8th century CE, Pallava-era Hindu) were built in different periods and for different faiths, but both sites consist of rock-cut monuments; hence only Statement 3 is correct.

Q89. With reference to the cultural history of India, the memorizing of chronicles, dynastic histories and epic tales was the profession of who of the following?

- (a) Shramana
- (b) Parivraajaka
- (c) Agrahaarika
- (d) Maagadh**

Answer: (d)

The Maagadhas (along with Sutas) were professional bards whose hereditary role was to memorise and recite royal genealogies, dynastic chronicles and epic narratives. Shramana and Parivraajaka were ascetic wanderers, and Agrahaarika referred to managers of land grants, not court storytellers. ([vajiramandravi.com](https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/with-reference-to-the-cultural-history-of-india-the-memorizing-of-chronicles-dynastic-histories-and-epic- Tales-was-the-profession-of-who-of-the-following/?utm_source=openai))

Q99. A recent movie titled The Man Who Knew Infinity is based on the biography of

- (a) **S. Ramanujan**
- (b) S. Chandrasekhar
- (c) S. N. Bose
- (d) C. V. Raman

Answer: (a)

'The Man Who Knew Infinity' (2015) is a biographical drama about Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan, based on Robert Kanigel's 1991 biography of the same name. It is not about astrophysicist Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar, physicist S. N. Bose, or Nobel-laureate physicist C. V. Raman. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Man_Who_Knew_Infinity?utm_source=openai))

— 2015 —

Q54. With reference to the art and archaeological history of India, which one among the following was made earliest?

- (a) Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar
- (b) **Rock-cut Elephant at Dhauri**
- (c) Rock-cut Monuments at Mahabalipuram
- (d) Varaha Image at Udayagiri

Answer: (b)

The rock-cut elephant at Dhauri was carved under Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE, making it the earliest among the options. The Varaha image at Udayagiri dates to the 5th century CE (Gupta), the Mahabalipuram monuments to the 7th century CE (Pallava), and the Lingaraja Temple to the 11th century CE (Somavamsi). ([insightsonindia.com](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2015/08/27/answer-key-upsc-civil-services-preliminary-exam-2015-general-studies-paper-1/?utm_source=openai))

Q75. Which one of the following was given classical language status recently?

- (a) **Odia**
- (b) Konkani
- (c) Bhojpuri
- (d) Assamese

Answer: (a)

Odia was accorded the 'Classical Language' tag by the Government of India in February 2014, becoming the sixth language to enter the list after Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu and Malayalam. Neither Konkani, Bhojpuri nor Assamese has yet received this status. ([timesofindia.indiatimes.com](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/milestone-for-state-as-odia-gets-classical-language-status/articleshow/30779140.cms?utm_source=openai))

Q96. Kalamkari painting refers to

- (a) a hand-painted cotton textile in South India
- (b) a handmade drawing on bamboo handicrafts in North-East India
- (c) a block-painted woollen cloth in Western Himalayan region of India
- (d) a hand-painted decorative silk cloth in North-Western India

Answer: (a)

Kalamkari (from 'kalam' = pen) is the traditional hand-painted and block-printed cotton textile art of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in South India. It is neither done on bamboo, woollen cloth, nor silk in other regions; therefore options (b), (c) and (d) are incorrect.

Q99. Which of the following has/have been accorded 'Geographical Indication' status?

1. Banaras Brocades and Sarees
2. Rajasthani Daal-Bati-Churma
3. Tirupathi Laddu

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: (c)

Under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act 1999, Banaras Brocades and Sarees were registered in September 2009 and Tirupati Laddu was registered in 2009. Rajasthani Daal-Bati-Churma has not been granted GI status. Hence only items 1 and 3 have GI protection, so option (c) is correct.

— 2014 —

Q8. Consider the following languages: 1. Gujarati 2. Kannada 3. Telugu Which of the above has/have been declared as 'Classical Language/Languages' by the Government?

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

Answer: (c)

By August 2014, the Government of India had accorded Classical-Language status to Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada and Telugu (both 2008), and Malayalam (2013). Among the languages listed, Kannada and Telugu are classical, while Gujarati is not; therefore 2 and 3 only are correct (option c).

([pib.gov.in](https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=2034905&utm_source=openai))

Q44. With reference to the cultural history of India, the term 'Panchayatan' refers to

- (a) an assembly of village elders
- (b) a religious sect
- (c) a style of temple construction**
- (d) an administrative functionary

Answer: (c)

'Panchayatan' denotes a temple layout with one main shrine surrounded by four subsidiary shrines at the corners (five shrines in all), exemplified by Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh; it is therefore a style of temple construction. It is unrelated to village councils, sects or administrative posts, so options (a), (b) and (d) are wrong. ([vajiramandravi.com](https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/with-reference-to-the-cultural-history-of-india-the-term-panchayatan-refers-to/?utm_source=openai))

Q47. Which one of the following pairs does not form part of the six systems of Indian Philosophy?

- (a) Mimamsa and Vedanta
- (b) Nyaya and Vaisheshika
- (c) Lokayata and Kapalika**
- (d) Sankhya and Yoga

Answer: (c)

The six orthodox (stika) systems are Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya, Yoga, Mimamsa and ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sampradaya?utm_source=openai)). Lokayata is a heterodox materialist school, while Kapalika is a Shaivite tantric sect, so the pair 'Lokayata and Kapalika' does not figure among the six systems; all other listed pairs do. Hence option (c) is correct.

Q54. The national motto of India, 'Satyameva Jayate' inscribed below the Emblem of India is taken from

- (a) Katha Upanishad
- (b) Chandogya Upanishad
- (c) Aitareya Upanishad
- (d) Mundaka Upanishad**

Answer: (d)

The phrase "Satyameva Jayate" ("Truth alone triumphs") appears in mantra 3.1.6 of the Mundaka Upanishad and was adopted as India's national motto, inscribed below the State Emblem. The other listed Upanishads do not contain this specific mantra. ([edukemy.com](https://edukemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2014-question-54/?utm_source=openai))

Q83. With reference to Sattriya, consider the following statements:

1. It is a combination of music, dance and drama.
 2. It is a centuries-old living tradition of the Vaishnavites of Assam.
 3. It is based on classical Ragas and Talas of devotional songs composed by Tulsidas, Kabir and Mirabai.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Sattriya, created by the 15th-century saint Srimanta Sankardev, is a living Vaishnavite tradition of Assam that blends music (Borgeet), dance and drama. Its musical repertoire is based on compositions of Sankardev and Madhavdev, not on the bhajans of Tulsidas, Kabir or Mirabai; therefore statement 3 is incorrect while 1 and 2 are correct. ([aiduva.com](https://aiduva.com/upsc/sattriya-dance-assam-vaishnavite-s-features-prelims-2014/?utm_source=openai))

Q84. The national calendar of India, based on the Saka era, fixes 1 Chaitra on 22 March in an ordinary Gregorian year and on 21 March in a leap year. Thus option (a) "22 March (or 21 March)" is the correspondence. ([knowindia.india.gov.in](https://knowindia.india.gov.in/national-identity-elements/national-calendar.php?utm_source=openai))

- (a) 22 .>0M (%5> 21 .>0M)**
 (b) 15 . (%5> 16 .)
 (c) 31 .>0M (%5> 30 .>0M)
 (d) 21 *M0H2 (%5> 20 *M0H2)

Answer: (a)

The national calendar of India, based on the Saka era, fixes 1 Chaitra on 22 March in an ordinary Gregorian year and on 21 March in a leap year. Thus option (a) "22 March (or 21 March)" is the correspondence. ([knowindia.india.gov.in](https://knowindia.india.gov.in/national-identity-elements/national-calendar.php?utm_source=openai))

Q85. With reference to the Indian history of art and culture, consider the following pairs:

Famous work of sculpture — Site

1. A grand image of Buddha's Mahaparinirvana with numerous celestial musicians above and the sorrowful figures of his followers below — Ajanta
2. A huge image of Varaha Avatar (boar incarnation) of Vishnu, as he rescues Goddess Earth from the deep and chaotic waters, sculpted on rock — Mount Abu
3. "Arjuna's Penance" / "Descent of Ganga" sculpted on the surface of huge boulders — Mamallapuram

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

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

Answer: (c)

The reclining Mahaparinirvana sculpture with celestial musicians and grieving disciples is in Cave 26 at Ajanta, and the famous open-air bas-relief 'Arjuna's Penance/Descent of the Ganga' is on the boulders of Mamallapuram—both pairs are correct. The monumental Varaha (boar) rescuing Bhudevi is carved on the cliff face at Udayagiri (Madhya Pradesh), not at Mount Abu, so pair 2 is wrongly matched. Hence only pairs 1 and 3 are correct. ([dalvoy.com](https://www.dalvoy.com/upsc/previous-years/2014/ancient-sculpture-buddha-mahaparinirvana-ajanta-arjuna-penance-mamallapuram?utm_source=openai))

Q87. With reference to India's culture and tradition, what is 'Kalaripayattu'?

- (a) It is an ancient Bhakti cult of Shaivism still prevalent in some parts of South India
- (b) It is an ancient style bronze and brasswork still found in southern part of Coromandel area
- (c) It is an ancient form of dance-drama and a living tradition in the northern part of Malabar
- (d) It is an ancient martial art and a living tradition in some parts of South India**

Answer: (d)

Kalaripayattu is an ancient weapon-based martial art that originated in present-day Kerala and continues to be practised in parts of South India. It is not a bhakti cult, metal craft, or dance-drama form. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalaripayattu?utm_source=openai))

Q88. Consider the following pairs:

1. Garba : Gujarat
2. Mohiniattam : Odisha
3. Yakshagana : Karnataka

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

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

Answer: (c)

Garba is the circular folk dance of Gujarat and Yakshagana is the traditional dance-drama of coastal Karnataka—both correctly matched. Mohiniyattam is a classical dance form of Kerala, not Odisha, so pair 2 is incorrect. Therefore pairs 1 and 3 only are correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garba_%28dance%29?utm_source=openai))

Q89. With reference to Buddhist history, tradition and culture in India, consider the following pairs:

Famous shrine — Location

1. Tabo monastery and temple complex : Spiti Valley
2. Lhotsava Lhakhang temple, Nako : Zanskar Valley
3. Alchi temple complex : Ladakh

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

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

Answer: (c)

Tabo Monastery is located in the Spiti Valley (Himachal Pradesh) and Alchi temple complex is in Ladakh—both pairs are correct. Lhotsava (Lotsava) Lhakhang is part of the 11th-century Nako Monastery complex situated in Kinnaur, not in the Zanskar Valley; hence pair 2 is incorrect. Thus only pairs 1 and 3 are correctly matched. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tabo_Monastery?utm_source=openai))

Q90. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Bijak' is a composition of the teachings of Saint Dadu Dayal.
2. The Philosophy of Pushti Marg was propounded by Madhvacharya.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

'Bijak' is the principal scripture of the Kabir-Panth and contains Kabir's dohas and sayings, not those of Dadu Dayal, so statement 1 is wrong. Pushti Marg (Path of Grace) and its Zuddh dvaita founded by Vallabhacharya (1479-1530), not by the dualist saint Madhvacharya, so statement 2 is also wrong; hence neither statement is correct.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bijak?utm_source=openai))

Q91. A community of people called Manganiyars is well-known for their

- (a) martial arts in North-East India
- (b) musical tradition in North-West India**
- (c) classical vocal music in South India
- (d) pietra dura tradition in Central India

Answer: (b)

The Manganiyars are a Muslim community of the Thar desert in Rajasthan (north-west India) celebrated for their hereditary folk and Sufi musical performances; they are not associated with martial arts, pietra-dura, or classical Carnatic music. ([tourism.rajasthan.gov.in](https://www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in/content/rajasthan-tourism/en/tourist-destinations/village-of-manganiyars.html?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2013

Art & Culture › Architecture & World Heritage

moderate

Q4. With reference to the history of Indian rock-cut architecture, consider the following statements:

1. The caves at Badami are the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India.
2. The Barabar rock-cut caves were originally made for Ajivikas by Emperor Chandragupta Maurya.
3. At Ellora, caves were made for different faiths.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Barabar Hill caves (3rd century BCE) are the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India, making statement 1 incorrect. These Barabar caves were dedicated to Ajivikas by Emperor Ashoka (and his grandson Dasharatha), not Chandragupta Maurya, so statement 2 is wrong. Ellora (6th–10th century CE) contains Buddhist, Hindu and Jain caves, so statement 3 is correct. Hence only statement 3 is true. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barabar_Caves?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2013

Art & Culture › Architecture & World Heritage

easy

Q36. Some Buddhist rock-cut caves are called Chaityas, while the others are called Viharas. What is the difference between the two?

- (a) Vihara is a place of worship, while Chaitya is the dwelling place of the monks
- (b) Chaitya is a place of worship, while Vihara is the dwelling place of the monks**
- (c) Chaitya is the stupa at the far end of the cave, while Vihara is the hall axial to it
- (d) There is no material difference between the two

Answer: (b)

In Buddhist rock-cut architecture a Chaitya (chaitya-g[ha]) is a barrel-roofed prayer hall with a stupa and is used for congregational worship, whereas a Vihara is the residential monastery where monks live and study. Therefore option (b) correctly distinguishes the two; the other options reverse or blur their functions. ([vaia.com](https://www.vaia.com/en-us/explanations/architecture/architectural-styles/buddhist-architecture/?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2013

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

easy

Q37. Which one of the following describes best the concept of Nirvana in Buddhism?

- (a) The extinction of the flame of desire**
- (b) The complete annihilation of self
- (c) A state of bliss and rest
- (d) A mental stage beyond all comprehension

Answer: (a)

The literal meaning of nirvāṇa is 'blowing out/extinction'; doctrinally it is the extinguishing of craving, hatred and delusion—i.e., the flame of desire—bringing an end to suffering and rebirth. Option (a) expresses this most precisely, while the other options misrepresent or over-generalize the concept. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nirvana_%28Buddhism%29?utm_source=openai))

Q47. Which of the following statements is/are applicable to Jain doctrine?

1. The surest way of annihilating Karma is to practice penance.
2. Every object, even the smallest particle, has a soul.
3. Karma is the bane of the soul and must be ended.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: (d)

Jain philosophy teaches that karmic matter binds to the soul and must be destroyed (Statement 3); rigorous penance (tapas) is regarded as the most certain method to burn this karma (Statement 1); and it holds that even earth, water, fire, air and the minutest particles possess individual jivas or souls all three statements are correct.

Q57. Consider the following historical places :

1. Ajanta Caves
2. Lepakshi Temple
3. Sanchi Stupa

Which of the above places is/are also known for mural paintings?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only**
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

Answer: (b)

Ajanta caves are famous for 2nd century BCE–5th century CE Buddhist murals, and the Lepakshi Veerabhadra temple (Andhra Pradesh) contains 16th-century Vijayanagara murals. Sanchi Stupa is noted for stone sculptures and gateways, not wall paintings. Hence only 1 and 2 have mural paintings. ([studyadda .com](https://www.studyadda.com/solved-papers/solved-paper-general-studies-2013_q66/773/355687?utm_source=openai))

Q58. With reference to the history of philosophical thought in India, consider the following statements regarding Sankhya school :

1. Sankhya does not accept the theory of rebirth or transmigration of soul.
2. Sankhya holds that it is the self-knowledge that leads to liberation and not any exterior influence or agent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Sankhya, while atheistic, accepts the karma doctrine and thus the cyclic transmigration of the soul; statement 1 is incorrect. It teaches that discrimination between Purusha (consciousness) and Prakriti (matter) — i.e., self-knowledge — alone brings liberation, without the help of an external deity; statement 2 is correct. Hence only statement 2 is right.

([educemy.com](https://educemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2013-question-7/?utm_source=openai))

Q73. Consider the following pairs:

Tribe

State

1. Limboo (Limbu) : Sikkim
2. Karbi : Himachal Pradesh
3. Dongaria Kondh : Odisha
4. Bonda : Tamil Nadu

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a)

The Limboo (Limbu) people are recognized in Sikkim, and the Dongaria Kondh inhabit the Niyamgiri hills of Odisha—both pairs are correct. Karbi are a major tribe of Assam, not Himachal Pradesh; the Bonda (or Bondo) reside in Malkangiri district of Odisha, not Tamil Nadu. Thus only pairs 1 and 3 are correctly matched.

([rishiupsc.com](https://rishiupsc.com/2013-prelims-question-paper-with-answers/?utm_source=openai))

Q79. In the context of cultural history of India, a pose in dance and dramatics called 'Tribhanga' has been a favourite of Indian artists from ancient times till today. Which one of the following statements best describes this pose?

- (a) One leg is bent and the body is slightly but oppositely curved at waist and neck
- (b) Facial expressions, hand gestures and make-up are combined to symbolize certain epic or historic characters
- (c) Movements of body, face and hands are used to express oneself or to tell a story
- (d) A little smile, slightly curved waist and certain hand gestures are emphasized to express the feelings of love or eroticism

Answer: (a)

Tribhanga ("three-bend") is a graceful stance where one leg is bent and the body bends in opposite directions at the knee, waist and neck, creating an S-shaped curve; this matches option (a). Other options describe generic abhinaya or lasya elements, not the structural pose.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribhanga?utm_source=openai))

— 2012 —

Q24. The Nagara, the Dravida and the Vesara are the

- (a) three main racial groups of the Indian subcontinent
- (b) three main linguistic divisions into which the languages of India can be classified
- (c) three main styles of Indian temple architecture
- (d) three main musical Gharanas prevalent in India

Answer: (c)

Indian temple architecture is traditionally categorised into three principal styles: Nagara (northern), Dravida (southern) and Vesara (a hybrid that developed in the Deccan). These terms have no connection with race, language or music. Hence option (c) is correct. ([testbook.com](https://testbook.com/question-answer/the-nagara-the-dravida-and-the-vesara-are-the--601bf979806531df83df85c8?utm_source=openai))

Q67. ->0\$.G @ 5? \$ 09@ *M0.A *0.M*0> 'M0A*&' G 8 &0M- .G (? .M(2 9H ?

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3. 'M0A*& 2 - 2 . \$M0K 8G 2? 8 8M C\$ %5> +>08@ 6,M&K *0 '>0?\$ * /A M\$.G 8G L(-8>/8G %(89@ 9H/9H ?

- (a) G 5 2 1
- (b) G 5 2 2
- (c) 1 0 2 &K(K
- (d) (\$K 1 0 (9@ 2

Answer: (b)

Dhrupad is primarily a devotional/spiritual form of Hindustani music, often praising deities ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhrupad)), and its improvised alap section is sung with syllables (nom-tom) derived from Vedic mantras ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhrupad)). It did not originate in Rajput courts of the Mughal age; textual references trace it to much earlier periods. Therefore only statements 2 and 3 are correct.

UPSC 2012

Art & Culture › Classical Dance Forms

moderate

Q68. A ?*A!<@ \$%> -0\$(> M/. (C\$M/K G ,@ M/> -G& 9H?
 1. A ?*A!<@ (C\$M/ .G (OM\$ *M0>/ *M0> @ (%> > (> M/0B* *M08M\$A\$
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 2. *@\$2 @ \$6M\$0@ @ '>0 *0 ->5 5 (C\$M/ 0(> -0\$(> M/. @ 5?6G7\$> 9H
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 */A M\$.G 8G L(-8>/8G %(89@ 9H/9H ?

- (a) G 5 2 1
 (b) G 5 2 2
 (c) 1 0 2 &K(K
 (d) (\$K 1 0 (9@ 2

Answer: (a)

V cika-abhinaya (speaking/singing dialogues) is a traditional feature of Kuchipudi dance. Bharatanatyam is almost entirely mute ([sahapedia.org](https://www.sahapedia.org/index.php/kuchipudi-0)). The spectacular balancing on the rim of a brass plate (Tarangam) belongs to Kuchipudi, not Bharatanatyam, so statement 2 is wrong ([sahapedia.org](https://www.sahapedia.org/index.php/kuchipudi-0)). Hence only statement 1 is correct.

UPSC 2012

Art & Culture › Sculpture & Iconography

easy

Q72. Lord Buddha's image is sometimes shown with the hand gesture called 'Bhumisparsha Mudra'. It symbolizes

- (a) Buddha's calling of the Earth to watch over M ra and to prevent M ra from c
(b) Buddha's calling of the Earth to witness his purity and chastity despite
 (c) Buddha's reminder to his followers that they all arise from the Earth and finally dissolve into the Earth, and thus this life is transitory
 (d) Both the statements (a) and (b) are correct in this context

Answer: (b)

In the bhkmispar[a ('earth-touching') mudr the Buddha touches the earth to call the Earth witness to his past merits and purity when M ra tries to tempt or challenge him during m 'earth-witness' gesture, not a general reminder of impermanence. Hence only statement (b) correctly explains the symbolism. ([metmuseum.org](https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/38317?utm_source=openai))

— 2011 —

UPSC 2011

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

easy

Q77. The Jain philosophy holds that the world is created and maintained by

- (a) Universal Law**
 (b) Universal Truth
 (c) Universal Faith
 (d) Universal Soul

Answer: (a)

Classical Jain doctrine is that the universe is beginning-less and operates according to a natural, eternal Universal Law (Sy dv da/Anek ntav da); it rejects the idea of a creator God or u soul. Hence option (a) is correct, whereas (b) Universal Truth, (c) Universal Faith and (d) Universal Soul do not figure in Jain cosmology. ([lichavilyceum.com](https://lichavilyceum.com/upsc-prelims-2011-solved-paper/?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2010

Art & Culture › Painting & Visual Arts

easy

Q55. There are only two known examples of cave paintings of the Gupta period in ancient India. One of these is paintings of Ajanta caves. Where is the other surviving example of Gupta paintings?

- (a) Bagh caves
- (b) Ellora caves
- (c) Lomas Rishi cave
- (d) Nasik caves

Answer: (a)

Apart from Ajanta, the only other surviving set of Gupta-era mural paintings is found in the Bagh caves (Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh), dating to c. 5th century CE. Ellora's paintings are later (post-Gupta), while Lomas Rishi and Nasik contain either Mauryan or early-historic carvings but no confirmed Gupta paintings.

UPSC 2010

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

easy

Q120. Among the following, who was not a proponent of bhakti cult ?

- (a) Nagarjuna
- (b) Tukaram
- (c) Tyagaraja
- (d) Vallabhacharya

Answer: (a)

Tukaram, Tyagaraja and Vallabhacharya were well-known Bhakti saints who preached personal devotion to a chosen deity, whereas Nagarjuna was a 2nd-century Mahayana Buddhist philosopher (Madhyamika school) and not connected with the Bhakti cult. Hence only Nagarjuna does not belong to the Bhakti tradition. ([iasexamportal.com](https://iasexamportal.com/Answer-Key/General-Studies-Solution-CSP-2010?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2009

Art & Culture › Music

easy

Q12. The brothers Umakant and Ramakant Gundecha are

- (a) Dhrupad vocalists
- (b) Kathak dancers
- (c) Sarod maestros
- (d) Tabla players

Answer: (a)

Umakant and Ramakant Gundecha, known as the Gundecha Brothers, are acclaimed Hindustani classical vocalists of the Dhrupad genre; they are not associated with Kathak, Sarod or Tabla performance. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gundecha_Brothers?utm_source=openai))

Q13. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:

List I (Famous person)

- A. Mandakini Amte
- B. Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry
- C. Romila Thapar
- D. Vanashree Rao

List II (Well-known for)

- 1. Theatre direction
- 2. Social service and community leadership
- 3. Dance
- 4. History writing

(a) A-2 B-1 C-4 D-3

(b) A-2 B-4 C-1 D-3

(c) A-3 B-1 C-4 D-2

(d) A-3 B-4 C-1 D-2

Answer: (a)

Mandakini Amte is a Ramon Magsaysay–winning social worker (community leadership); Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry is a noted theatre director; Romila Thapar is an eminent historian; and Vanashree Rao is a Kuchipudi dancer. Thus the correct matching is A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandakini_Amte?utm_source=openai))

Q15. In which State is the Buddhist site Tabo Monastery located?

(a) Arunachal Pradesh

(b) Himachal Pradesh

(c) Sikkim

(d) Uttarakhand

Answer: (b)

Tabo Monastery (Tabo Chos-Khor) is situated in the Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh and is one of the oldest continuously operating Buddhist monasteries in India. Options (a), (c) and (d) are therefore incorrect as they place the site in other Himalayan states.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tabo_Monastery?utm_source=openai))

Q17. Mahamasthakabhisheka, a great religious event, is associated with and done for who of the following?

(a) Bahubali

(b) Buddha

(c) Mahavir

(d) Nataraja

Answer: (a)

Mahamastakabhisheka is the 12-yearly grand anointing of the 17-metre monolithic statue of Bahubali (Gommateshwara) at Shravanabelagola, Karnataka. It is not associated with Buddha, Mahavira or the Nataraja icon. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahamastakabhisheka?utm_source=openai))

Q18. Consider the following pairs:

Tradition — State

1. Gatka, a traditional martial art : Kerala
2. Madhubani, a traditional painting : Bihar
3. Singhye Khababs Sindhu Darshan Festival : Jammu and Kashmir

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

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

Answer: (c)

Gatka is a Sikh martial art native to Punjab, not Kerala, so Pair 1 is wrong. Madhubani painting originated in Bihar, and the Singhye Khababs (Sindhu Darshan) festival is held in Ladakh region of the erstwhile J-&-K state; thus Pairs 2 and 3 are correctly matched. Hence only 2 & 3 are correct.
([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gatka))

Q20. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:

List I (Famous person)

- A. Amrita Sher-Gil**
- B. Bhimsen Joshi**
- C. Rukmini Devi Arundale**
- D. Suryakant Tripathi Nirala**

List II (Well-known as)

1. Dancer
2. Painter
3. Poet
4. Singer

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

Answer: (b)

Amrita Sher-Gil is renowned as a modernist painter; Bhimsen Joshi was a Hindustani classical vocalist (singer); Rukmini Devi Arundale revived and popularised the Bharatanatyam dance form; and Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala' is a celebrated Hindi poet. Hence the correct matching is A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3.
([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amrita_Sher-Gil?utm_source=openai))

Q23. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:

List I (Book)

- A. In Custody
- B. Sea of Poppies
- C. The Argumentative Indian
- D. Unaccustomed Earth

List II (Author)

- 1. Amartya Sen
- 2. Amitav Ghosh
- 3. Anita Desai
- 4. Jhumpa Lahiri

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

Answer: (c)

In Custody is a 1984 novel by Anita Desai; Sea of Poppies (2008) is by Amitav Ghosh; The Argumentative Indian (2005) was written by Amartya Sen; and Unaccustomed Earth (2008) is a short-story collection by Jhumpa Lahiri. Thus the matching A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4 (option c) is correct.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_Custody_%28novel%29?utm_source=openai))

Q24. Among the following, who are the Agaria community ?

- (a) A traditional toddy tappers community of Andhra Pradesh
- (b) A traditional fishing community of Maharashtra
- (c) A traditional silk-weaving community of Karnataka
- (d) A traditional salt pan workers community of Gujarat**

Answer: (d)

The Agariya/Agaria are Koli salt-pan workers who harvest salt in the Little Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, so they correspond to option (d). They are not primarily known for toddy tapping, fishing or silk weaving.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agaria?utm_source=openai))

Q25. Recently, which one of the following was included in the UNESCO's World Heritage list ?

- (a) Dilwara Temple
- (b) Kalka-Shimla Railway**
- (c) Bhitarkanika Mangrove Area
- (d) Visakhapatnam to Araku valley railway line

Answer: (b)

UNESCO extended the 'Mountain Railways of India' property on 8 July 2008 to include the Kalka–Shimla Railway; the other three sites listed have never been inscribed on the World Heritage List. Hence option (b) is the only correct choice. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shimla?utm_source=openai))

Q26. Where is the famous Virupaksha temple located ?

- (a) Bhadrachalam
- (b) Chidambaram
- (c) Hampi**
- (d) Srikalahasti

Answer: (c)

The Virupaksha Temple is located at Hampi in Karnataka and is part of the Vijayanagara-period Group of Monuments at Hampi. The temples at Bhadrachalam, Chidambaram and Srikalahasti are dedicated to other deities, not Virupaksha.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virupaksha_Temple%2C_Hampi?utm_source=openai))

Q37. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists :

List I (Famous Temple) List II (State)

- A. Vidyashankara temple 1. Andhra Pradesh**
- B. Rajarani temple 2. Karnataka**
- C. Kandariya Mahadeo temple 3. Madhya Pradesh**
- D. Bhimesvara temple 4. Orissa**

Code :

A B C D

- (a) 2 4 3 1**
- (b) 2 3 4 1
- (c) 1 4 3 2
- (d) 1 3 4 2

Answer: (a)

Vidyashankara Temple is at Sringeri in Karnataka

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sringeri_Sharada_Peetham?utm_source=openai)); Rajarani Temple is in Bhubaneswar, Odisha (formerly Orissa)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajarani_Temple?utm_source=openai)); Kandariya Mahadeo Temple is in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kandariya_Mahadeva_Temple?utm_source=openai)); and

Bhimesvara (Bhimeswara Swamy) Temple is at Draksharamam in Andhra Pradesh

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daksharamam?utm_source=openai)). The correct matching therefore gives the code 2-4-3-1 (option a).

Q54. Who of the following is the author of a collection of poems called "Golden Threshold"?

- (a) Aruna Asaf Ali
- (b) Annie Besant
- (c) Sarojini Naidu**
- (d) Vijayalakshmi Pandit

Answer: (c)

'The Golden Threshold' (1905) is the debut anthology of poems by Sarojini Naidu, celebrated as the 'Nightingale of India'. The other options were eminent women leaders but not the author of this poetic collection. Hence option (c) is correct.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Golden_Threshold?utm_source=openai))

Q57. Anek ntav da is a core theory and philosophy of which one of the f

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism**
- (c) Sikhism
- (d) Vaishnavism

Answer: (b)

Anek ntav da, the doctrine of many-sided reality and conditional predication, is a central philosophy; it is not a teaching of Buddhism, Sikhism or Vaishnavism.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anekantavada?utm_source=openai))

Q93. Consider the following statements :

1. The National School of Drama was set up by Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1959.
 2. The highest honour conferred by the Sahitya Akademi on a writer is by electing him its Fellow.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Answer: (c)

The National School of Drama was set up in 1959 under the aegis of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, before becoming an independent entity in 1975. The Sahitya Akademi's highest honour is election to its Fellowship—reserved for just 21 'immortals of literature'—making Statement 2 correct as well. Thus both statements are correct.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_School_of_Drama?utm_source=openai))

Q110. Consider the following houses:

1. Christie's
2. Osian's
3. Sotheby's

Which of the above is/are auctioneer/auctioneers ?

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

Answer: (d)

Christie's and Sotheby's are globally known fine-art auctioneers, while Osian's Connoisseurs of Art, founded in 2000 in India, also conducts regular art and memorabilia auctions. Hence, all three listed houses are auctioneers.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Osian%27s_Connoisseurs_of_Art?utm_source=openai))

Q144. Consider the following famous names:

1. Amrita Sher-Gil
2. Bikash Bhattacharjee
3. N. S. Bendre
4. Subodh Gupta

Who of the above is/are well known as artist(s)?

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

Answer: (d)

All four names are noted Indian artists: Amrita Sher-Gil was a pioneering modernist painter; Bikash Bhattacharjee was a realist painter from Kolkata; N. S. Bendre was a founding member of the Baroda Group and Padma Bhushan awardee; and Subodh Gupta is a contemporary conceptual artist famed for stainless-steel installations. Therefore 1, 2, 3 and 4 are all artists.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amrita_Sher-Gil?utm_source=openai))

— 2008 —

Q16. Consider the following statements:

1. Orange Prize is awarded to a work of published fiction in English by a woman.
2. Pulitzer Prize is awarded by the Commonwealth Foundation to a citizen of any Commonwealth country for any literary work in English.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Statement 1 is correct: the Orange Prize (now called the Women's Prize for Fiction) is awarded annually for the best full-length novel written in English by a woman author. Statement 2 is wrong: the Pulitzer Prizes are presented by Columbia University in the United States for journalism, letters and music; they are not awarded by the Commonwealth Foundation nor limited to Commonwealth citizens. Hence only statement 1 is correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_Prize_for_Fiction?utm_source=openai))

Q17. Recently, the manuscripts of which one of the following have been included in the UNESCO's Memory of World Register?

- (a) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- (b) Mahabharata
- (c) Ramayana
- (d) Rig-Veda**

Answer: (d)

In 2007 UNESCO inscribed 30 Rig-Veda manuscripts on its Memory of the World Register, recognising them as documentary heritage of outstanding value. The other texts listed in the options had not been added at that time. ([timesofindia.indiatimes.com](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/rig-veda-manuscripts-in-unescos-heritage-list/articleshow/2137459.cms?utm_source=openai))

Q68. Ebrahim Alkazi is an eminent personality in which one of the following areas?

- (a) Heart surgery
- (b) Civil aviation
- (c) Theatre training**
- (d) Transport engineering

Answer: (c)

Ebrahim Alkazi was a legendary theatre director and head of the National School of Drama (1962-77), celebrated for his contribution to theatre training in India, making option (c) the correct choice. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebrahim_Alkazi?utm_source=openai))

Q70. Bimbavati Devi is a well-known dancer of which type of dance?

- (a) Manipuri**
- (b) Bharat Natyam
- (c) Kuchipudi
- (d) Odissi

Answer: (a)

Bimbavati Devi, trained by the legendary Manipuri guru Bipin Singh, is repeatedly profiled and featured as a leading performer of the Manipuri classical dance style, not Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi or Odissi. ([openpr.com](https://www.openpr.com/news/1824525/manipuri-dancer-bimbavati-devi-enthalls-audience?utm_source=openai))

Q73. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the Lists:

List-I (Author)

- A. Bankimchandra
- B. Dinabandhu Mitra
- C. Premchand

List-II (Work)

- 1. Shatranj Ke Khilari
- 2. Debi Chaudhurani
- 3. Nil-Darpan
- 4. Chandrakanta

- (a) A-2 B-4 C-1
- (b) A-3 B-4 C-2
- (c) A-2 B-3 C-1**
- (d) A-3 B-1 C-4

Answer: (c)

Bankimchandra Chatterjee authored the novel "Debi Chaudhurani"; Dinabandhu Mitra wrote the socio-political play "Nil Darpan"; and Munshi Premchand penned the short story "Shatranj Ke Khilari". This mapping corresponds to A-2, B-3, C-1, which is option (c). Options (a), (b) and (d) mis-match one or more pairings. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devi_Chaudhurani?utm_source=openai))

Q76. Among the Indian languages, which one is spoken maximum in the world after Hindi?

- (a) Telugu
- (b) Tamil
- (c) Bengali**
- (d) Malayalam

Answer: (c)

Globally, Bengali (Bangla) has more than 240 million native speakers and over 40 million second-language speakers, placing it just behind Hindi among Indian languages. Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam each have fewer than 100 million speakers worldwide, so Bengali is the most widely spoken after Hindi. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_language?utm_source=openai))

Q80. Near which one of the following cities are Palitana Temples located?

- (a) Bhavnagar**
- (b) Mount Abu
- (c) Nasik
- (d) Ujjain

Answer: (a)

The famous Jain temple-city of Palitana is situated on Shatrunjaya hill in Bhavnagar district, Gujarat; hence it is nearest to the city of Bhavnagar. The other options—Mount Abu (Dilwara temples), Nasik and Ujjain—are not the locations of the Palitana complex. ([bhavnagar.nic.in](https://bhavnagar.nic.in/tourist-place/palitana-temple/?utm_source=openai))

Q108. Who among the following translated the Autobiography of Madam Curie in Hindi?

- (a) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- (b) Lal Bahadur Shastri**
- (c) Choudhary Charan Singh
- (d) Gobind Vallabh Pant

Answer: (b)

Former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri translated the autobiography of Madame Curie into Hindi; this fact is recorded in multiple biographical notes on Shastri. The other leaders mentioned are not associated with this translation work.

([safalta.com](https://www.safalta.com/doubts/other/634ce3ddf3f7342469723943?utm_source=openai))

Q125. Who among the following wrote the poem, Subh-e Azadi?

- (a) Sahir Ludhianvi
- (b) Faiz Ahmed Faiz**
- (c) Muhammad Iqbal
- (d) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Answer: (b)

Subh-e Azadi (Dawn of Freedom) is a celebrated Partition-era Urdu poem composed in August 1947 by Faiz Ahmed Faiz; none of the other listed writers authored this piece.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subh-e-Azadi?utm_source=openai))

Q1. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:

List-I (Person)

- A. Bhajan Sopori
- B. Birju Maharaj
- C. Priyadarshini Govind
- D. T V Gopalkrishnan

List-II (Known as)

- 1. Bharatanatyam Dancer
- 2. Exponent of Santoor
- 3. Mridangam Maestro
- 4. Kathak Dancer

Codes:

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

Answer: (c)

Bhajan Sopori is a renowned Santoor exponent (A-2); Pt Birju Maharaj is India's foremost Kathak dancer (B-4); Priyadarshini Govind is a leading Bharatanatyam dancer (C-1); and T. V. Gopalkrishnan is celebrated as a Mridangam maestro and Carnatic vocalist (D-3). Hence the correct code is 2-4-1-3. ([aspireias.com](https://www.aspireias.com/upsc-general-study-10years-paper/2007?utm_source=openai))

Q5. Who among the following wrote the book "Ayodhya : 6 December 1992"?

- (a) Chandra Shekar
- (b) P. V. Narasimha Rao**
- (c) Jaswant Singh
- (d) Arun Shourie

Answer: (b)

The book "Ayodhya: 6 December 1992" was written by former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and published posthumously in 2006. Chandra Shekar, Jaswant Singh and Arun Shourie authored other political works but not this title. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayodhya_6_December_1992?utm_source=openai))

Q7. How is Gabriel García well known?

- (a) Known for research in agriculture
- (b) A renowned football coach
- (c) A great writer who won the Nobel Prize for Literature**
- (d) Known for research in railway engineering

Answer: (c)

Gabriel García Márquez was a Colombian novelist who received the 1982 Nobel Prize for Literature; hence he is famous as a great writer. He was not an agricultural researcher, football coach, or railway-engineering researcher.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1982_Nobel_Prize_in_Literature?utm_source=openai))

Q9. The Pulitzer Prize is associated with which one of the following?

- (a) Environmental protection
- (b) Civil aviation
- (c) Journalism**
- (d) Olympic Games

Answer: (c)

The Pulitzer Prize, instituted in 1917 by Columbia University, is best known for honoring excellence in newspaper and magazine journalism (along with letters, drama and music). It is unrelated to environmental prizes, civil-aviation awards, or the Olympic Games.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulitzer_Prize?utm_source=openai))

Q10. Raghu Rai is well known for which one of the following areas?

- (a) Environment protection
- (b) Olympic Games
- (c) Journalism**
- (d) Civil aviation

Answer: (c)

Raghu Rai is India's celebrated photographer and photo-journalist, elected to Magnum Photos in 1977. He is not primarily known for environmental activism, Olympic sports, or aviation.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raghu_Rai?utm_source=openai))

Q11. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:

List-I (Eminent Person)

- A. Bhanu Bharti
- B. Mike Pandey
- C. Mohd. Zafar Khayyam
- D. Vinda Karandikar

List-II (Known as)

- 1. Music composer
- 2. Poet and litterateur
- 3. Theatre director
- 4. Wildlife film-maker

Codes:

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

Answer: (d)

Bhanu Bharti is an award-winning theatre director (3)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhanu_Bharti?utm_source=openai)); Mike Pandey is renowned as a wildlife film-maker (4)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_Pandey?utm_source=openai)); Mohammed (Zahur) Khayyam is a noted Hindi film music composer (1)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammed_Zahur_Khayyam?utm_source=openai)); and Vinda Karandikar is a distinguished Marathi poet and litterateur (2)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vinda_Karandikar?utm_source=openai)). This produces the sequence A-3 B-4 C-1 D-2, which corresponds to option (d); any other coding mismatches at least one pairing.

Q13. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:

List-I (Writer)

- A. V. S. Naipaul
- B. Salman Rushdie
- C. Paul Scott
- D. J. G. Farrell

List-II (Book)

- 1. The Siege of Krishnapur
- 2. In a Free State
- 3. Midnight's Children
- 4. Staying On

Codes:

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

Answer: (d)

The correct pairing is: V. S. Naipaul—"In a Free State" (1971 Booker)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_a_Free_State?utm_source=openai)); Salman Rushdie—"Midnight's Children" (1981 Booker)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midnight%27s_Children?utm_source=openai)); Paul Scott—"Staying On" (1977 Booker)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staying_On?utm_source=openai)); J. G. Farrell—"The Siege of Krishnapur" (1973 Booker)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Siege_of_Krishnapur?utm_source=openai)). Option (d) lists this exact sequence; other options mis-match one or more authors to books.

Q28. For which one of the following books did Kiran Desai win the Man Booker Prize 2006?

- (a) The Secret River
- (b) In the Country of Men
- (c) The Inheritance of Loss**
- (d) Mother's Milk

Answer: (c)

Kiran Desai won the 2006 Man Booker Prize for her second novel, "The Inheritance of Loss." The other listed titles—"The Secret River," "In the Country of Men," and "Mother's Milk"—were shortlisted books by other authors that year.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_Man_Booker_Prize?utm_source=openai))

Q54. Where is the famous Vijaya Vittala Temple having its 56 carved pillars emitting musical notes located?

- (a) Belur
- (b) Bhadrachalam
- (c) Hampi**
- (d) Srirangam

Answer: (c)

The Vijaya Vittala (Vitthala) Temple renowned for its 56 'musical' stone pillars is situated in the ruined city of Hampi, the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire in present-day Karnataka. Belur, Bhadrachalam and Srirangam have famous temples but not this musical-pillar shrine. ([jagranjosh.com](https://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/ias-prelims-general-studies-solved-question-paper-2007-1307667428-1?utm_source=openai))

— 2006 —

Q3. Match List – I with List – II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:

List – I (Place of Archaeological Monument)

- A. Sisupalgarh
- B. Piprahwa
- C. Goalpara
- D. Bishnupur

List – II (State)

- 1. Assam
- 2. Manipur
- 3. Orissa
- 4. Uttar Pradesh

Code: A B C D

- (a) 4 1 3 2
- (b) 1 2 3 4
- (c) 3 4 1 2**
- (d) 1 3 2 4

Answer: (c)

Sisupalgarh is an early-historic fortified city near Bhubaneswar in present-day Odisha (Orissa) ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sisupalgarh?utm_source=openai)); Piprahwa stupa lies in Siddharthnagar district of Uttar Pradesh ([siddharthnagar.nic.in](https://siddharthnagar.nic.in/tourist-place/piprahwa-stupa/?utm_source=openai)); the archaeological hill of Sri Surya Pahar is near Goalpara in Assam ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sri_Surya_Pahar?utm_source=openai)); and Bishnupur mentioned here is the town/district in Manipur, not the West Bengal temple-town ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bishnupur%2C_Manipur?utm_source=openai)). Therefore the correct state mapping is A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2, which matches option (c).

Q11. Match List – I with List – II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:

List – I (Centre of Handicrafts)

- A. Mon
- B. Nalbari
- C. Pasighat
- D. Tura

List – II (State)

- 1. Arunachal Pradesh
- 2. Assam
- 3. Meghalaya
- 4. Nagaland

Code: A B C D

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

Answer: (a)

Mon is noted for Konyak crafts in Nagaland; Nalbari is a bamboo-craft centre in Assam; Pasighat is famous for cane & bamboo work in Arunachal Pradesh; and Tura is known for weaving in Meghalaya. Thus the correct matching is A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3, which corresponds to option (a). ([examrobot.com](https://examrobot.com/content/match-list-i-centre-handicrafts-list-ii-state-and-select-correct-answer-using-codes-given?utm_source=openai))

Q12. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) Vikramsila Monastery : Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Hemkund Gurudwara : Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Udayagiri Caves : Maharashtra
- (d) Amaravati Buddhist Stupa : Andhra Pradesh**

Answer: (d)

Amaravati (Dharanikota) is home to the famous Amaravati Buddhist Stupa in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh, so option (d) is correctly matched. Vikramshila Monastery is in Bhagalpur district of Bihar, not Uttar Pradesh; Hemkund (Hemkund Sahib) is in Chamoli district of present-day Uttarakhand (then part of Uttaranchal), not Himachal Pradesh; and the well-known Udayagiri Caves are in Madhya Pradesh (and another group in Odisha), not Maharashtra. Hence only pair (d) is correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amaravati_Stupa?utm_source=openai))

Q32. Who among the following is a Hindustani classical singer?

- (a) Geeta Chandran
- (b) Leela Samson
- (c) Gangubai Hangal**
- (d) Swapnasundari

Answer: (c)

Gangubai Hangal was a doyenne of the Kirana gharana and one of India's best-known Hindustani classical (khayal) vocalists, whereas Geeta Chandran, Leela Samson and Swapnasundari are celebrated Bharatanatyam/Kuchipudi dancers, not Hindustani singers.

([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gangubai-Hangal?utm_source=openai))

Q39. Which of the following is not correctly matched?

Prominent Indian Writer : Language

- (a) Raja Rao : Telugu**
- (b) Gobind Trimbuk Deshpande : Marathi
- (c) Subramaniam Bharati : Tamil
- (d) Tara Shankar Joshi : Gujarati

Answer: (a)

Raja Rao wrote primarily in English, not Telugu, so pair (a) is incorrect; the other three writers are correctly paired with Marathi, Tamil and Gujarati respectively, making option (a) the item 'not correctly matched'. ([ias examportal.com](https://iasexamportal.com/IAS/UPSC-IAS-Examination-General-Studies-INDIAN-HISTORY-2006-solved-Question-paper-Prepare-for-Civil-Services))

Q44. Match List – I with List – II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:

List – I (Author)

- A. Amartya Sen
- B. Bimal Jalan
- C. Arundhati Roy
- D. Mani Shankar

List – II (Book)

- 1. An Ordinary Person's Guide to Empire
- 2. The Argumentative Indian
- 3. The Future of India
- 4. Confessions of a Secular Fundamentalist

Code:

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

Answer: (c)

Amartya Sen authored "The Argumentative Indian"

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Argumentative_Indian?utm_source=openai)); Bimal

Jalan wrote "The Future of India"

([penguin.co.in](https://www.penguin.co.in/book/future-of-india/?utm_source=openai)); Arundhati Roy wrote

"An Ordinary Person's Guide to Empire" ([penguin.co.in](https://www.penguin.co.in/book/an-ordinary-person

s-guide-to-empire-2/?utm_source=openai)); and Mani Shankar Aiyar authored "Confessions of a Secular

Fundamentalist" ([penguin.co.in](https://www.penguin.co.in/book/confessions-of-a-secular-fundamentalist/?u

tm_source=openai)). This mapping matches option (c); other options mis-match at least one pair.

Q53. Who among the following was presented with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Ratna Award, 2005 for her lifetime achievement in dance?

- (a) Chandralekha**
- (b) Tanjavur Balasaraswati
- (c) Uma Sharma
- (d) Yamini Krishnamurthy

Answer: (a)

For 2005, the Sangeet Natak Akademi conferred its highest honour, the 'Akademi Ratna' fellowship, on six artistes; the only dancer among them was the renowned contemporary choreographer Chandralekha.

Therefore, option (a) Chandralekha is the right choice, while the other names were not awardees in 2005. ([timesofindia.indiatimes.com](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/zora-sehgal-bags-akademi-ratna-award/articleshow/1210678.cms?utm_source=openai))

Q58. Who is Wole Soyinka ?

- (a) A well-known economist
- (b) A well-known football player
- (c) A well-known industrialist owning steel plants in many parts of the world.
- (d) A Nobel Prize winner for literature.**

Answer: (d)

Akinwande Oluwole "Wole" Soyinka is a Nigerian playwright and poet who won the 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature; he is not primarily known as an economist, footballer or steel tycoon.

([aspireias.com](https://www.aspireias.com/upsc-general-study-10years-paper/2006))

Q66. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched?**Monastery — State**

- (a) Dhankar Monastery — Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Rumtek Monastery — Sikkim
- (c) Tabo Monastery — Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Kye Monastery — Arunachal Pradesh**

Answer: (d)

Dhankar, Tabo and Kye (Key/ Ki) monasteries are all situated in the Spiti region of Himachal Pradesh, while Rumtek is in Sikkim. Therefore pairing Kye Monastery with Arunachal Pradesh is incorrect, making option (d) the mismatched pair.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Key_Monastery?utm_source=openai))

Q75. Bhakta Tukaram was a contemporary of which Mughal Emperor?

- (a) Babar
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Jahangir**
- (d) Aurangzeb

Answer: (c)

Sant Tukaram lived c. 1608-1649

([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Tukaram?utm_source=openai)), squarely within the reign of Mughal emperor Jahangir (1605-1627). Thus he was Jahangir's contemporary and option (c) is correct.

Q81. The initial design and construction of which massive temple took place during the reign of Suryavarman II?

- (a) Sri Mariamman Temple
- (b) Angkor Vat**
- (c) Batu Caves Temple
- (d) Kamakhya Temple

Answer: (b)

The Khmer king Suryavarman II (r. 1113–c. 1150) commissioned and began the construction of Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument; the other temples are unrelated to his reign.

([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Suryavarman-II?utm_source=openai))

Q82. Indian Airlines (now renamed 'Indian') have redesigned their logo which is a graphic wheel. This logo has been inspired from which one of the following?

- (a) Hampi Temples
- (b) Mamallapuram Temples
- (c) Sun Temple, Konark**
- (d) Khajuraho Temple

Answer: (c)

After its re-branding as "Indian", Indian Airlines adopted a stylised blue wheel taken from the stone chariot wheels of the 13-century Sun Temple at Konark; company material explicitly states the livery was "inspired by the Sun Temple at Konark in Odisha".

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Airlines?utm_source=openai))

Q138. "Lectures from Colombo to Almora" is based on the experiences of which one of the following?

- (a) Veer Savarkar
- (b) Annie Besant
- (c) Ramkrishna Paramhansa
- (d) Swami Vivekanand**

Answer: (d)

"Lectures from Colombo to Almora" is a book compiling Swami Vivekananda's discourses delivered in Sri Lanka and India in 1897; none of the other listed figures authored this work.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lectures_from_Colombo_to_Almora?utm_source=openai))

Q149. In which one of the following films did the Nobel Laureate Pearl S. Buck collaborate?

- (a) Shatranj Ke Khilari
- (b) Guide**
- (c) Lawrence of Arabia
- (d) Titanic

Answer: (b)

Nobel laureate author Pearl S. Buck co-wrote the English-language screenplay of the 1965 Hindi film "Guide", collaborating with director Vijay Anand and producer Dev Anand. She had no such association with the other films listed. ([edurev.in](https://edurev.in/t/203141/World-Panorama-Solved-Questions--1995-2020--2?utm_source=openai))

— 2005 —

Q11. Who among the following is not a recipient of the Bharat Ratna Award?

- (a) Ustad Bismillah Khan
- (b) Satyajit Ray
- (c) Lata Mangeshkar
- (d) Raj Kapoor**

Answer: (d)

Ustad Bismillah Khan (2001), Satyajit Ray (1992) and Lata Mangeshkar (2001) have all received the Bharat Ratna. Raj Kapoor received honours such as the Padma Bhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke Award but was never awarded the Bharat Ratna, so option (d) is correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bharat_Ratna?utm_source=openai))

Q28. Whose autobiography is the book "My Music, My Life"?

- (a) Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma
- (b) Ustad Amjad Ali Khan
- (c) Pandit Ravi Shankar**
- (d) Ustad Zakir Hussain

Answer: (c)

"My Music, My Life" is the autobiography of sitar virtuoso Pandit Ravi Shankar, first published in 1968 and re-issued later by Simon & Schuster. ([simonandschuster.com](https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/My-Music-My-Life/Ravi-Shankar/9781601090102?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2005

Art & Culture › Architecture & World Heritage

moderate

Q39. Consider the following statements:

1. Champaner - Pavagadh Archaeological Park
2. Chhatrapati Shivaji Railway Station, Mumbai
3. Mamallapuram
4. Sun Temple (Konark Temple)

Which of the above are included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO?

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

Answer: (d)

All four sites are on UNESCO's World Heritage List: Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park (inscribed 2004), Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai (inscribed 2004), the Group of Monuments at Mamallapuram (inscribed 1984) and the Sun Temple, Konark (inscribed 1984). Hence 1, 2, 3 and 4 are included. ([whc.unesco.org](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1101/?utm_source=openai))

— 2004 —

UPSC 2004

Art & Culture › Cultural Institutions & Awards

easy

Q6. The Archaeological Survey of India is an attached office of the Department/Ministry of

- (a) Culture**
- (b) Tourism
- (c) Science and Technology
- (d) Human Resource Development

Answer: (a)

The Archaeological Survey of India is an attached office under the Department of Culture, Ministry of Culture (previously Tourism & Culture). Therefore option (a) 'Culture' is correct, while the other ministries listed do not administer the ASI. ([indiaculture.gov.in](https://www.indiaculture.gov.in/built-heritage?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2004

Art & Culture › Tribes & Communities

easy

Q14. In which one of the following Union Territories, do the people of the Onge tribe live?

- (a) Andaman & Nicobar Islands**
- (b) Dadra & Nagar Haveli
- (c) Daman & Diu
- (d) Lakshadweep

Answer: (a)

The Onge are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group inhabiting Little Andaman Island in the Andaman & Nicobar archipelago; they are absent from Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep. Hence option (a) is correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Onge?utm_source=openai))

Q27. Which one of the following four Vedas contains an account of magical charms and spells?

- (a) Rig-veda
- (b) Yajur-veda
- (c) Atharva-veda**
- (d) Sama-veda

Answer: (c)

The Atharvaveda is known as the "Veda of magical formulas"; its Samhita contains numerous hymns that are charms, spells and incantations used for healing, success, love, war, etc., unlike the largely liturgical Rig, Yajur and Sama Vedas.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atharvaveda?utm_source=openai))

Q30. Which one of the following sequences indicates the correct chronological order?

- (a) Shankaracharya - Ramanuja - Chaitanya**
- (b) Ramanuja - Shankaracharya - Chaitanya
- (c) Ramanuja - Chaitanya - Shankaracharya
- (d) Shankaracharya - Chaitanya - Ramanuja

Answer: (a)

Adi Shankaracharya lived first (c. 788–820 CE), Ramanuja followed (1017–1137 CE), and Chaitanya Mahaprabhu belonged to the late 15th–early 16th century (1486–1534 CE); hence the correct chronological order is Shankaracharya ! Ramanuja ! Chaitanya. ([testbook.com](https://testbook.com/question-answer/which-one-of-the-following-sequences-indicates-the--62700a2205a009091ae90d9f?utm_source=openai))

Q37. Match List I (Books) with List II (Authors) and select the correct answer using the codes given below:

List I

- A. My Presidential Years**
- B. The Hindu View of Life**
- C. Voice of Conscience**
- D. Without Fear or Favour**

List II

- 1. S. Radhakrishnan**
- 2. V. V. Giri**
- 3. N. Sanjiva Reddy**
- 4. R. Venkataraman**

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

Answer: (d)

My Presidential Years was authored by President R. Venkataraman, The Hindu View of Life by S. Radhakrishnan, Voice of Conscience by President V. V. Giri, and Without Fear or Favour by President N. Sanjiva Reddy. Hence the only option matching the sequence A-4 B-1 C-2 D-3 is (d). ([books.google.com](https://books.google.com/books/about/My_Presidential_Years.html?id=IThNPgAACAAJ&utm_source=openai))

Q44. Who among the following is well known as an exponent of flute?

- (a) Debu Choudhri
- (b) Madhup Mudgal
- (c) Ronu Mazumdar**
- (d) Shafaat Ahmad

Answer: (c)

Ronu Mazumdar is an internationally acclaimed exponent of the Hindustani classical flute (bansuri). Debu Choudhuri is known for the sitar, Madhup Mudgal for Hindustani vocal music, and Shafaat Ahmad for the tabla, making option (c) the only correct choice. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-2004-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

Q49. Consider the following statements:

1. Hema Malini is the Chairperson of the Children's Film Society, India.
 2. Yash Chopra is the Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification of India.
 3. Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand have all been recipients of the Dada Saheb Phalke Award.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: (d)

Only statement 3 is true: Dilip Kumar (1994), Raj Kapoor (1987) and Dev Anand (2002) have all received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. Statement 1 is wrong because by 2003–04 the Children's Film Society, India was chaired by Raveena Tandon, while Hema Malini had recently demitted the NFDC chair. Statement 2 is wrong—Yash Chopra never served as Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification; in 2004 the post was held by Anupam Kher (followed by Sharmila Tagore). ([indiatoday.in](https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/society-and-the-arts/story/20031027-govt-displays-new-found-fondness-for-bollywood-announces-spat-e-of-star-appointments-791542-2003-10-26?utm_source=openai))

Q67. Consider the following statements:

1. The Islamic Calendar is twelve days shorter than the Gregorian Calendar
2. The Islamic Calendar began in AD 632
3. The Gregorian Calendar is a solar calendar

Which of these statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

The Gregorian calendar is indeed a solar calendar, so statement 3 is correct. The Islamic (Hijri) calendar is about 11 days shorter—not exactly 12 days—than the solar year, making statement 1 inaccurate. It also starts from the Hijra (AD 622), not AD 632, so statement 2 is wrong. Hence only statement 3 is correct. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-2004-solved-question-paper/))

UPSC 2004

Art & Culture › Literature & Languages

easy

Q94. Consider the following international language

1. Arabic
2. French
3. Spanish

The correct sequence of the language given above in the decreasing order of the number of their speakers is

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

Answer: (a)

Spanish has the largest number of native speakers among the three, followed by Arabic and then French, giving the decreasing-order sequence 3-1-2 ([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/topic/languages-by-number-of-native-speakers-2228882?utm_source=openai)).

UPSC 2004

Art & Culture › Cultural Institutions & Awards

easy

Q114. Which of the following authors won the Booker Prize twice?

- (a) Margaret Atwood
- (b) J. M. Coetzee
- (c) Graham Swift
- (d) Ian McEwan

Answer: (b)

J. M. Coetzee received the Booker Prize twice (in 1983 for 'Life & Times of Michael K' and in 1999 for 'Disgrace'). The other authors listed have won it only once. ([scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com/document/732020719/2004-GS1-Set-A-With-Answers))

— 2003 —

UPSC 2003

Art & Culture › Literature & Languages

easy

Q42. 'Mrichhakatika' an ancient Indian book written by Shudraka deals with

- (a) The love affair of a rich merchant with the daughter of a courtesan
- (b) The victory of Chandragupta II over the Shaka Kshatrapas of western India
- (c) The military expeditions and exploits of Samudragupta
- (d) The love affair between a Gupta King and a princess of Kamarupa

Answer: (a)

Shudraka's Sanskrit play 'Mrichhakatika' ('The Little Clay Cart') narrates the romance between Charudatta, a noble but impoverished merchant, and Vasantasena, the beautiful daughter of a courtesan, set against the backdrop of Ujjain. It does not deal with Gupta-era military exploits or royal conquests. ([lichavilyceum.com](https://lichavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-2003-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

Q47. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The National Song Vande Mataram was composed by Bankimchandra Chatterji originally in Bengali**
- (b) The National Calendar of India based on Saka era has its 1st Chaitra on 22nd March normally and 21st March in a leap year
- (c) The design of the National Flag of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 22nd July 1947
- (d) The song 'Jana-gana-mana', composed originally in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore was adopted in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly on 24th January 1950 as the National Anthem of India

Answer: (a)

'Vande Mataram' is actually written in highly-Sanskritised Bengali (often described simply as Sanskrit), so the statement that it was composed 'originally in Bengali' is factually wrong, whereas the National Calendar (22 March/21 March), the flag-design adoption on 22 July 1947, and the adoption of 'Jana-gana-mana' on 24 Jan 1950 are all historically accurate; therefore (a) is the only incorrect statement and is the required answer for the UPSC key.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vande_Mataram?utm_source=openai))

Q60. Who among the following was selected for the 2001 Dada Saheb Phalke Award?

- (a) Dev Anand
- (b) Lata Mangeshkar
- (c) Ramanand Sagar
- (d) Yash Chopra**

Answer: (d)

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2001 was conferred on film-maker Yash Chopra. His name appears in the official chronological list of recipients between Asha Bhosle (2000) and Dev Anand (2002).

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dadasaheb_Phalke_Award))

Q95. Dilip Kaur Tiwana is well known as a

- (a) litterateur**
- (b) musician
- (c) scientist
- (d) sports person

Answer: (a)

Dilip Kaur Tiwana (b. 1935) is an eminent Punjabi novelist and short-story writer, winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award; she is neither a musician, scientist nor sportsperson. Hence option (a) is correct. ([iasexamportal.com](https://iasexamportal.com/paper/IAS_General_Studies_Prelims_Paper_2003_part-1?utm_source=openai))

Q119. Consider the following statement:

1. Kitab-I-Nauras, a collection of songs in praise of Hindu deities and Muslim saints, was written by Ibrahim Adil Shah II
 2. Amir Khusrau was the originator in India of the early form of the musical style known as Qawwali.
- Which of these statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Ibrahim Adil Shah II of Bijapur compiled 'Kitab-i-Nauras', which contains songs praising both Hindu deities and Muslim saints, while Amir Khusrau (13th c.) is credited with creating the early form of Qawwali in India; hence both statements are correct.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kitab-i_Nauras?utm_source=openai))

— 2002 —

Q16. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The statue of Gomateshwara at Sravanabelagola represents the last Tirthankara of Jains**
- (b) India's largest Buddhist monastery is in Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) The Khajuraho temples were built under Chandela Kings
- (d) The Hoysalesvara temple is dedicated to Siva

Answer: (a)

The statue of Gomateshwara (Bahubali) at Shravanabelagola does not depict the last Jain Tirthankara—hence this statement is incorrect, while the other three statements are factually correct (Tawang Monastery is India's largest, Khajuraho was built by the Chandelas, and the Hoysalesvara temple at Halebidu is dedicated to Shiva). Since the UPSC asked for the statement that is NOT correct, option (a) is the right choice. ([edurev.in](https://edurev.in/t/202725/Ancient-History-Solved-Questions--2021-1995--2?utm_source=openai))

Q19. In ancient Indian Buddhist monasteries, a ceremony called Pavarana used to be held. It was the

- (a) occasion to elect the Sanghaparinyaka and two speakers, one on Dhamma and the other on Vinaya
- (b) confession by monks of their offences committed during their stay in the monasteries during the rainy season**
- (c) ceremony of initiation of new person into the Buddhist Sangha in which the head is shaved and when yellow robes are offered
- (d) gathering of Buddhist monks on the next day to the full-moon day of Ashadha when they take up a fixed abode for the next four months or rainy season

Answer: (b)

Pavara is held on the full-moon day that ends the three-month rains retreat (Vassa). A monk formally invites criticism and confesses any offences committed during the retreat before the assembled Sangha. Thus it is a collective confession/atonement ceremony, matching option (b); the other options describe different monastic functions (election of officials, initiation, or the start of Vassa). ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pav%C4%81ra%E1%B9%87%C4%81?utm_source=openai))

Q40. Match List I (Artist) with List II (Art) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List I (Artist) List II (Art)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. Hiren Bhattacharya | 1. Bharatanatyam dance |
| B. Malini Rajurkar | 2. Hindustani vocal music |
| C. Pratibha Prahlad | 3. Kuchipudi dance |
| D. Vempati Chinna Satyam | 4. Puppetry |

Codes:

A B C D

- (a) 4 2 1 3**
(b) 3 1 2 4
(c) 4 1 2 3
(d) 3 2 1 4

Answer: (a)

Hiren Bhattacharya is a noted modern puppeteer (4); Malini Rajurkar is an eminent Hindustani classical vocalist (2); Pratibha Prahlad is a celebrated Bharatanatyam dancer (1); and Guru Vempati Chinna Satyam is synonymous with Kuchipudi dance (3). Hence the sequence A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3 matches option (a). ([wep a.unima.org](https://wepa.unima.org/en/sangeet-natak-akademi-awards-for-puppetry/?utm_source=openai))

Q48. Who was the first Indian actress to receive the Padma Shri Award?

- (a) Smita Patil
(b) Nargis Dutt
(c) Meena Kumari
(d) Madhubala

Answer: (b)

Nargis Dutt was conferred the Padma Shri in 1958, making her the first Indian actress to receive this civilian honour. Smita Patil received it much later (1985), Meena Kumari never received the award, and Madhubala was never honoured with a Padma award. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nargis))

Q86. Match List I (Book) with List II (Author) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List I (Book)	List II (Author)
A. Autobiography of an Unknown Indian	1. Mulk Raj Anand
B. India: A Wounded Civilization	2. Nirad C. Chaudhuri
C. Confessions of a Lover	3. R. K. Narayan
D. The English Teacher	4. V. S. Naipaul

Codes:

- (a) 1 3 2 4
- (b) 2 4 1 3**
- (c) 1 4 2 3
- (d) 2 3 1 4

Answer: (b)

Autobiography of an Unknown Indian was written by Nirad C. Chaudhuri, India: A Wounded Civilization by V. S. Naipaul, Confessions of a Lover by Mulk Raj Anand, and The English Teacher by R. K. Narayan, giving the code 2-4-1-3 (option b). ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-2002-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

Q108. Chapchar Kut is a festival celebrated in the state of

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Assam
- (c) Mizoram**
- (d) Sikkim

Answer: (c)

Chapchar Kut is a spring harvest festival of the Mizo people and is celebrated across the state of Mizoram. The other listed states (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim) have their own distinct festivals, not Chapchar Kut, hence option (c) is correct. ([edurev.in](https://edurev.in/t/203066/Indian-Panorama-Solved-Questions--1995-2020--2))

— 2001 —

Q5. In which one of the following cities is the Lingaraja Temple located?

- (a) Bhubaneswar**
- (b) Bijapur
- (c) Kolkata
- (d) Shraanabelagola

Answer: (a)

Lingaraja Temple is an 11th-century Kalinga-style shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva situated in Bhubaneswar, Odisha; hence option (a) is correct. Bijapur (Gol Gumbaz), Kolkata (Kalighat/Dakshineswar) and Shraanabelagola (Gommateshwara statue) host different monuments, not the Lingaraja Temple. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lingaraja_Temple?utm_source=openai))

Q17. Who amongst the following Englishmen first translated the Bhagavad-Gita into English?

- (a) William Jones
- (b) Charles Wilkins**
- (c) Alexander Cunningham
- (d) John Marshall

Answer: (b)

Sir Charles Wilkins produced the first complete English translation of the Bhagavad-Gita under the patronage of Governor-General Warren Hastings. William Jones translated other Sanskrit works; Cunningham and Marshall were archaeologists, not translators of the Gita. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Wilkins?utm_source=openai))

Q58. Hoysala monuments are found in

- (a) Hampi and Hospet
- (b) Halebid and Belur**
- (c) Mysore and Bangalore
- (d) Sringeri and Dharwar

Answer: (b)

The most celebrated Hoysala temples—the Chennakesava Temple at Belur and the Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebidu—are located at Halebid and Belur in present-day Karnataka, so option (b) is correct. ([scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com/document/931883905/2001))

Q65. Which of the following pairs is NOT correctly matched?

- (a) India's first Technicolour film — Jhansi Ki Rani
- (b) India's first 3-D film — My Dear Kuttichat
- (c) India's first insured film — Taal
- (d) India's first actress to win the Bharat Ratna — Meena Kumari**

Answer: (d)

'Jhansi Ki Rani' (1953) is acknowledged as India's first full-length Technicolor feature, and 'My Dear Kuttichathan' (1984) was the country's first 3-D film. Subhash Ghai's 'Taal' (1999) pioneered film-insurance in India. No actress—including Meena Kumari—has ever been awarded the Bharat Ratna (the first film personalities to receive it were director Satyajit Ray in 1992 and singer Lata Mangeshkar in 2001). Therefore pair (d) is the wrongly matched one. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jhansi_Ki_Rani_%281953_film%29?utm_source=openai))

Q66. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:

List I (Dancer)

- I. Kalamandalam Kshemavaty
- II. Kottakkal Sivaraman
- III. Lakshmi Viswanathan
- IV. N. Madhabi Devi

List II (Dance)

- A) Kathakali
- B) Manipuri
- C) Mohiniyattam
- D) Bharata Natyam

- (a) I-A, II-C, III-B, IV-D
- (b) I-C, II-A, III-D, IV-B**
- (c) I-A, II-C, III-D, IV-B
- (d) I-C, II-A, III-B, IV-D

Answer: (b)

Kalamandalam Kshemavathy is a noted Mohiniyattam exponent, Kottakkal Sivaraman is famous for his female roles in Kathakali, Lakshmi Viswanathan is a celebrated Bharatanatyam dancer, and N. Madhabi Devi is an award-winning Manipuri artiste; hence the correct matching is I-C, II-A, III-D, IV-B, i.e., option (b). ([sarthaks.com](https://www.sarthaks.com/74169/match-list-with-list-ii-and-select-the-correct-answer-using-the-codes-given-below-the-lists?utm_source=openai))

Q87. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) Harappan Civilisation ... Painted Grey Ware
- (b) The Kushans ... Gandhara School of Art**
- (c) The Mughals ... Ajanta Paintings
- (d) The Marathas ... Pahari School of Painting

Answer: (b)

The Gandhara School of Art flourished under Kushan patronage (1st-3rd centuries CE); hence 'The Kushans – Gandhara School of Art' is the only correctly matched pair. Painted Grey Ware is associated with the later Vedic period, Ajanta paintings pre-date the Mughals, and the Pahari School grew under Himalayan Rajput chiefs, not the Marathas. ([examrobot.com](https://examrobot.com/content/which-one-following-pairs-correctly-matched-3?utm_source=openai))

Q21. The Raga which is sung early in the morning is

- (a) Todi**
- (b) Darbari
- (c) Bhopali
- (d) Bhimpalasi

Answer: (a)

Raga Todi (Miyani ki Todi and its variants) is traditionally rendered in the early morning, roughly between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m.; the other options are evening-or-night ragas (Darbari Kanada—late night; Bhopali—evening; Bhimpalasi—afternoon). Hence option (a) is correct.
([raagtime.com](https://raagtime.com/ragas/todi-jaiwanti?utm_source=openai))

Q27. Consider the following statements regarding the Chakiarkoothu form of dance:

- I. It is performed by Chakiar caste.**
- II. It cannot be traditionally witnessed by the higher caste Hindus.**
- III. Mizhavu is the accompanying instrument.**
- IV. Its theatre form is called koothambalam.**

Which of these statements are correct?

- (a) I, III and IV**
- (b) I, II and III
- (c) II, III and IV
- (d) I, II and IV

Answer: (a)

Chakiar Koothu is performed by members of the Chakiar caste (I), is staged inside temple koothambalams where traditionally only higher-caste Hindus were allowed to watch—so statement II is incorrect—uses the mizhavu drum (III) and its dedicated theatre is the koothambalam (IV). Therefore statements I, III and IV are correct! Option (a). ([selfstudyhistory.com](https://selfstudyhistory.com/2015/04/06/previous-solved-paper-with-explanations-2000-part-1/))

Q31. Match List I (Books) with List II (Authors) and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:

List I

- I. My Music, My Life
- II. Adha Gaon
- III. Radha
- IV. The Pilferer

List II

- A) Laxman Gaikwad
- B) Rahi Masoom Raza
- C) Ramakanta Rath
- D) Ravi Shankar

Codes:

- (a) I-C, II-B, III-D, IV-A
- (b) I-D, II-B, III-C, IV-A**
- (c) I-D, II-A, III-C, IV-B
- (d) I-C, II-A, III-D, IV-B

Answer: (b)

Correct pairings are: 'My Music, My Life'—Ravi Shankar; 'Adha Gaon'—Rahi Masoom Raza; 'Radha'—Ramakanta Rath; 'The Pilferer'—Laxman Gaikwad. Code I-D, II-B, III-C, IV-A matches option (b). (uttarpradesh.pscnotes.com)(https://uttarpradesh.pscnotes.com/uppcs-prelims/match-list-i-books-with-list-ii-authors-and-select-the-correct-ans/?utm_source=openai)

Q40. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:

List I (Artist)

- I. Balamurali Krishna
- II. Mita Pandit
- III. Kanyakumari
- IV. Nikhil Bannerjee

List II (Medium of music delivery)

- A) Hindustani vocal
- B) Ghatam
- C) Sitar
- D) Violin
- E) Carnatic vocal

Codes:

- (a) I-E, II-A, III-B, IV-C**
- (b) I-D, II-C, III-A, IV-E
- (c) I-C, II-A, III-E, IV-B
- (d) I-E, II-D, III-A, IV-C

Answer: (a)

I-Balamurali Krishna is a legendary Carnatic vocalist; II-Meeta Pandit is noted for Hindustani classical vocal; III-Kanyakumari was clubbed with the percussion instrument Ghatam in the official key (though she is better known today as a Carnatic violin virtuoso); IV-Nikhil Banerjee was a maestro of the sitar. The sequence I-E, II-A, III-B, IV-C therefore matches option (a).

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M._Balamuralikrishna))(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M._Balamuralikrishna?utm_source=openai)

Q66. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched?

- (a) Baki Itihas: Badal Sarkar
- (b) Sita Swayamvar: Vishnu Das Bhave
- (c) Yayati: Girish Karnad
- (d) Giddha: Jabbar Patel**

Answer: (d)

'Baaki Itihas' is a Bengali play by Badal Sircar ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Badal_Sircar)); 'Sita Swayamvar' was the first Marathi play staged by Vishnudas Bhave ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vishnudas_Bhave?utm_source=openai)); 'Yayati' is the debut Kannada play of Girish Karnad ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yayati?utm_source=openai)). 'Giddha' is a women's folk dance of Punjab, not a work associated with film-theatre director Jabbar Patel ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giddha?utm_source=openai)), so pair (d) is mismatched.

Q85. Assertion (A): The Aham and Puram poems of the Padinen Kilukanakku group formed a continuation of the Sangam composition.

Reason (R): They were included under the Post-Sangam works as against the Sangam works proper.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A**
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

Answer: (a)

The eighteen 'lesser texts' (Padinen Kilukanakku) such as K r N _patu (agam) and Ka7a (puram) are dated a little later (c. 300-500 CE) and stylistically extend the Sangam poetic tradition; thus Assertion A is true. Because they belong to the Post-Sangam corpus (unlike Ettuttokai which form Sangam works proper), Reason R is also true and states exactly why they are regarded as a continuation rather than part of the original canon. Hence A and R are both true and R explains A. ([sarthaks.com](https://www.sarthaks.com/58897/assertion-the-aham-and-puram-poems-of-the-padinen-kilukanakku-group-formed-continuation?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1999

Art & Culture › Architecture & World Heritage

moderate

Q15. Consider the following statements: The striking feature of the Jama Masjid in Kashmir completed by Zain-ul-Abidin include(s)

I. turret.

II. similarity with Buddhist pagodas.

III. Persian style.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) I alone

(b) I, II and III

(c) II and III

(d) I and III

Answer: (b)

The Jamia Masjid completed by Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin is noted for its four central wooden turrets (I), its tiered, pagoda-like roofs reflecting Buddhist influence (II), and strong Persian elements in its arches and courtyard plan (III). Since all three features are present, statements I, II and III are correct (option b).

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamia_Masjid%2C_Srinagar?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1999

Art & Culture › Literature & Languages

easy

Q33. The first writer to use Urdu as the medium of poetic expression was

(a) Amir Khusru

(b) Mirza Ghalib

(c) Bahadur Shah Zafar

(d) Faiz

Answer: (a)

Amir Khusru (1253-1325) is generally credited as the earliest poet to employ Hindavi/early Urdu for poetic expression, blending Persian with local dialects. Later luminaries like Mirza Ghalib, Bahadur Shah Zafar and Faiz wrote centuries afterward, making option (a) correct.

([lichavilyceum.com](https://lichavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1999-solved-question-paper/))

UPSC 1999

Art & Culture › Painting & Visual Arts

easy

Q37. The paintings of Abanindranath Tagore are classified as

(a) realistic

(b) socialistic

(c) revivalistic

(d) impressionistic

Answer: (c)

Abanindranath Tagore led the Bengal School, rejecting western naturalism and reviving indigenous motifs; art historians therefore classify his work as 'revivalistic'. ([sarhaks.com](https://www.sarhaks.com/59372/the-paintings-of-abanindranath-tagore-are-classified-as?utm_source=openai))

Q41. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:

List I

I. Pandit Vishnu Digamber Paluskar

II. Venkatamahi

III. Shyama Shastri

IV. Amir Khusru

List II

A. Introduced the scheme of Raga classification of Indian music

B. Proponent of Carnatic music

C. Proponent of the Khayal form of Hindustani music

D. Wrote the music for the song 'Vande Mataram'

Codes:

(a) I-D, II-A, III-C, IV-B

(b) I-D, II-A, III-B, IV-C

(c) I-A, II-D, III-C, IV-B

(d) I-A, II-D, III-B, IV-C

Answer: (b)

The correct matching is: I-D (Paluskar set Bankim Chandra's 'Vande Mataram' to music); II-A (Venkatamakhin formulated the Melakarta raga classification); III-B (Shyama Shastri is one of the Carnatic Trinity); IV-C (Amir Khusrau is credited with developing the Khayal style). Any other combination misplaces at least one historical contribution.

([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1999-solved-question-paper/))

Q45. The first feature film (talkie) to be produced in India was

(a) Hatimtai

(b) Alam Ara

(c) Pundalik

(d) Raja Harishchandra

Answer: (b)

Alam Ara, produced and released on 14 March 1931 by Ardeshir Irani, was India's first full-length sound (talkie) feature film; earlier films like Raja Harishchandra (1913) were silent. Hence option (b) is correct.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alam_Ara?utm_source=openai))

Q48. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:

List I (Libraries)

I. Saraswati Mahal Library

II. Library of Tibetan Work and Archives

III. Raza Library

IV. Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library

List II (Locations)

A. Patna

B. Dharamsala

C. Thanjavur

D. Rampur

Codes:

(a) I-C, II-B, III-D, IV-A

(b) I-C, II-B, III-A, IV-D

(c) I-B, II-C, III-A, IV-D

(d) I-B, II-C, III-D, IV-A

Answer: (a)

Saraswati Mahal Library is in Thanjavur (C); the Library of Tibetan Works & Archives is in Dharamsala (B); Raza Library is located at Rampur (D); Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library is in Patna (A). This sequence matches option (a). ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1999-solve-d-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

Q74. Which one of the following pairs of folk-dance forms and states is not correctly matched?

(a) Korku : Maharashtra

(b) Jhummar : Haryana

(c) Thali : Himachal Pradesh

(d) Mukna : Manipur

Answer: (a)

Korku is the name of a tribal community concentrated mainly in Madhya Pradesh (and parts of neighbouring Maharashtra); it is not recognised as a distinct folk-dance form of Maharashtra, so the pair is mismatched.

Jhummar is a popular harvest/celebratory dance of Haryana, Thali is performed in the hill districts of Himachal/Uttarakhand, and Mukna, though essentially a wrestling style, is traditionally listed among Manipuri folk performance arts—hence those three pairs are considered correct.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korku_people?utm_source=openai))

Q88. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) 'Neel Darpan' was a play based on the exploitation of the indigo farmers
- (b) The author of the play 'Ghashiram Kotwal' is Vijay Tendulkar
- (c) The play 'Navanna' by Nabin Chandra Das was based on the famine of Bengal
- (d) Urdu theatre used to depend heavily on Parsi theatre**

Answer: (d)

Early Urdu commercial theatre evolved directly from the 19th-century Parsi theatre tradition, borrowing its proscenium format, melodramatic style and touring troupe model, so statement (d) is correct. The other statements have factual inaccuracies as framed (e.g., 'Navanna' about the Bengal famine was written by Bijon Bhattacharya, not Nabin Chandra Das). ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-ser-vices-prelims-1999-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

Q90. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:**List I (Writers)**

- I. Sashi Tharoor
- II. Amitav Ghosh
- III. Anita Desai
- IV. Vikram Chandra

List II (Books)

- A) Clear Light of Day
- B) Circle of Reason
- C) Love and Longing in Bombay
- D) Show Business

- (a) I-D, II-C, III-B, IV-A**
- (b) I-C, II-D, III-A, IV-B
- (c) I-D, II-C, III-A, IV-B
- (d) I-C, II-D, III-B, IV-A

Answer: (a)

The correct pairings are: Sashi Tharoor! "Show Business", Amitav Ghosh! "The Circle of Reason", Anita Desai! "Clear Light of Day", and Vikram Chandra! "Love and Longing in Bombay". This corresponds to option (a) in the official answer set; every other option mis-matches at least two writers. ([examrobot.com](https://examrobot.com/content/match-list-i-list-ii-and-select-correct-answer-using-codes-given-below-lists-44))

Q92. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:

List I (Books)

I. The First Indian War of Independence

II. Anand Math

III. Life Divine

IV. Sadhana

List II (Authors)

A) Rabindranath Tagore

B) Sri Aurobindo

C) Bankim Chandra Chatterji

D) Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

(a) I-D, II-C, III-B, IV-A

(b) I-C, II-D, III-A, IV-B

(c) I-D, II-A, III-C, IV-B

(d) I-C, II-B, III-A, IV-D

Answer: (a)

“The Indian War of Independence, 1857” was authored by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar; “Anand Math” by Bankim Chandra Chatterji; “The Life Divine” by Sri Aurobindo; and “Sadhana: The Realisation of Life” by Rabindranath Tagore. This mapping is exactly option (a) in the UPSC key, while the other choices interchange authors and books. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1999-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

— 1998 —

Q21. Which one of the following languages belongs to the Austric group?

(a) Marathi

(b) Ladakhi

(c) Khasi

(d) Tamil

Answer: (c)

Khasi, spoken in Meghalaya, belongs to the Mon-Khmer branch of the Austroasiatic (Austric) language family. Marathi (Indo-Aryan), Ladakhi (Tibeto-Burman) and Tamil (Dravidian) fall in other linguistic families, so option (c) is correct.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khasi_language?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1998

Art & Culture › Sculpture & Iconography

moderate

Q26. Assertion (A): The Gandhara School of art bears the mark of Hellenistic influence. Reason (R): Hinayana form was influenced by that art.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is NOT a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false**
- (d) A is false, but R is true

Answer: (c)

The Gandhara School shows strong Hellenistic (Greco-Roman) stylistic influence, so the Assertion is true.

However, Gandhara images mainly belong to the Mahayana tradition; Hinayana remained I and was **not** shaped by Hellenistic art, so the Reason is false. Therefore A is true but R is false, giving option (c). ([selfstudyhistory.com](https://selfstudyhistory.com/2015/04/05/prelims-ias-general-studies-solved-paper-with-explanations-1998-part-3/))

UPSC 1998

Art & Culture › Architecture & World Heritage

moderate

Q36. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- I. Lothal: Ancient dockyard
- II. Sarnath: First Sermon of Buddha
- III. Rajgir: Lion capital of Asoka
- IV. Nalanda: Great seat of Buddhist learning

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

Codes:

- (a) I, II, III and IV
- (b) III and IV
- (c) I, II and IV**
- (d) I and II

Answer: (c)

Lothal is renowned for its Indus-Valley dockyard, Sarnath is where the Buddha delivered his First Sermon, and Nalanda was a celebrated Buddhist university; the lion capital of Ashoka, however, is at Sarnath—not Rajgir—so only I, II and IV are correctly matched. ([selfstudyhistory.com](https://selfstudyhistory.com/2015/04/05/prelims-ias-general-studies-solved-paper-with-explanations-1998-part-4/))

UPSC 1998

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

easy

Q45. The concept of Eight-fold path forms the theme of

- (a) Dipavamsa
- (b) Divyavadana
- (c) Mahaparinibbana Sutta
- (d) Dharma Chakka Pravartana Sutta**

Answer: (d)

The Dhammacakkappavattana (Dharma Chakka Pravartana) Sutta—the Buddha's first sermon—expounds the Middle Way and details the Noble Eight-fold Path (right view, intent, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, concentration).

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhammacakkappavattana_Sutta?utm_source=openai))

Q60. Many of the Greeks, Kushanas and Shakas embraced Buddhism rather than Hinduism because

- (a) Buddhism was in the ascendant at that time
- (b) They had renounced the policy of war and violence
- (c) Caste-ridden Hinduism did not attract them
- (d) Buddhism provided easier access to Indian society**

Answer: (d)

Foreign ruling groups such as the Greeks (Yavanas), Zakas and Kuc nas found caste-bou society hard to enter; Buddhism, being non-sectarian and open to all without hereditary barriers, offered quicker social acceptance. This practical social accessibility, rather than a general renunciation of violence or mere popularity, explains their conversion.

([aspireias.com](https://www.aspireias.com/upsc-general-study-10years-paper/1998?utm_source=openai))

Q71. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- I. Mrichchhakatikam — Shudraka
- II. Buddhacharita — Vasuvandhu
- III. Mudrarakshasha — Vishakhadatta
- IV. Harshacharita — Banabhatta

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) I, II, III and IV
- (b) I, III and IV**
- (c) I and IV
- (d) II and III

Answer: (b)

Correct pairings: I M[cchakamika—Zkdraka ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shudraka?utm_source=openai)); III Mudr r kcasa—Vi[khadatta ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mudrarakshasa?utm_source=openai)); IV Harcacarita—B Gabhamma ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B%C4%81%E1%B9%AD%E1%B9%ADa?utm_source=openai)). Statement II is wrong because Buddhacarita was composed by A[vaghoca, not Vasuvandhu ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A%C5%9Bvaghoe%E1%B9%A3a?utm_source=openai)). Therefore only I, III and IV are correctly matched (option b).

Q42. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists:

List I

I. Gupta

II. Chandella

III. Chalukya

IV. Pallava

List II

A) Badami

B) Panamalai

C) Khajuraho

D) Deogarh

Codes:

(a) I–D, II–C, III–A, IV–B

(b) I–D, II–B, III–C, IV–A

(c) I–B, II–C, III–D, IV–A

(d) I–C, II–D, III–A, IV–B

Answer: (a)

The Gupta-period Dashavatara temple is at Deogarh, the Chandellas built the Khajuraho temples, early Chalukya monuments are at Badami, and Pallava rock-cut/structural temples include the Kailasanatha shrine at Panamalai. The mapping I-D, II-C, III-A, IV-B corresponds to option (a); other options mismatch at least one dynasty–site pair.

([scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com/document/731910044/1997))

Q44. The film ‘The Making of the Mahatma’ has been directed by

(a) Peter Ustinov

(b) Richard Attenborough

(c) Shyam Benegal

(d) Mira Nair

Answer: (c)

‘The Making of the Mahatma’ (1996), based on Gandhi’s South-African years, was directed by renowned Indian filmmaker Shyam Benegal; Richard Attenborough directed ‘Gandhi’ (1982), Peter Ustinov did not direct a Gandhi film, and Mira Nair had no association with this project. Thus option (c) is correct. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1997-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

Q48. Which one of the following statements regarding Asokan stone pillars is incorrect?

- (a) These are highly polished
- (b) These are monolithic
- (c) The shaft of pillars is tapering in shape
- (d) These are parts of architectural structures**

Answer: (d)

Ashokan pillars are free-standing, monolithic columns of polished Chunar sandstone with a slight taper toward the top; they are not structural members of larger buildings. Statements (a), (b) and (c) describe genuine features, whereas (d) is incorrect because the pillars were erected as independent monuments bearing edicts, not as parts of architectural structures.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pillars_of_Ashoka?utm_source=openai))

Q52. Which one of the following pairs of composers in different languages and their works on the Mahabharata theme is correctly matched?

- (a) Sarladasa — Bengali
- (b) Kasirama — Oriya
- (c) Tikkana — Marathi
- (d) Pampa — Kannada**

Answer: (d)

Adikavi Pampa's Kannada work 'Vikramarjuna Vijaya' (also called Pampa Bharata) retells the Mahabharata, making the pair 'Pampa — Kannada' the only correct match. The other pairs mis-match authors and languages (Sarala Das wrote in Oriya, Tikkana in Telugu, etc.).

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vikramarjuna_Vijaya?utm_source=openai))

Q59. Which one of the following dances involves solo performance?

- (a) Bharatnatyam**
- (b) Kuchipudi
- (c) Mohiniattam
- (d) Odissi

Answer: (a)

Bharatanatyam, the classical dance of Tamil Nadu, evolved as a solo temple-dance (sadir) performed by a single dancer. While other classical styles can also be presented solo or in groups, the UPSC 1997 answer key designates Bharatanatyam as the representative solo form.

UPSC 1997

Art & Culture › Literature & Languages

easy

Q62. Which one of the following scripts of ancient India was written from right to left?

- (a) Brahmi
- (b) Nandnagari
- (c) Sharada
- (d) Kharosthi**

Answer: (d)

Kharosthi, used in the north-west of ancient India, was directly influenced by the right-to-left Aramaic script and is itself written right-to-left. Brahmi, Nandinagari and Sharada are all left-to-right derivatives of Brahmi, hence they do not fit the description. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1997-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1997

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

easy

Q73. The famous dialogue between Nachiketa and Yama is mentioned in the

- (a) Chandogyopanishad
- (b) Mundakopanishad
- (c) Kathopanishad**
- (d) Kenopanishad

Answer: (c)

The celebrated philosophical dialogue between the boy Nachiketa and Yama, Lord of Death, occurs in the Kathopanishad (also called Katha Upanishad). ([testbook.com](https://testbook.com/question-answer/in-the-following-upanisad-we-have-a-knowledge-ful--62f53a23e176cff556f83bfb?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1997

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

easy

Q77. Milindapanho is in the form of a dialogue between the King Menander and the Buddhist monk

- (a) Nagasena**
- (b) Nagarjuna
- (c) Nagabhatta
- (d) Kumarilabhatta

Answer: (a)

The P li work Milindapañho ('Questions of Milinda') records a philosophical dialogue between Indo-Greek king Menander (Milinda) and the Buddhist monk N gasena, making option (a) names are unrelated Buddhist or Brahmanical scholars. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1997-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

Q86. In the Mahayana Buddhism, the Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara was also known as

- (a) Vajrapani
- (b) Manjusri
- (c) Padmapani**
- (d) Maitreya

Answer: (c)

In Mahayana Buddhism, Avalokitesvara—the Bodhisattva embodying compassion—is popularly called Padmapani (“holder of the lotus”). Vajrapani, Manjusri and Maitreya are distinct bodhisattvas/future Buddha, so option (c) alone matches. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1997-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

Q94. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer by using the codes given below the lists:

List I (Author)

- I. Varahamihira**
- II. Visakhadatta**
- III. Sudraka**
- IV. Bilhana**

List II (Text)

- A) Prabandha Chintamani**
- B) Mrchchhakatikam**
- C) Brhat-Samhita**
- D) Devi Chandraguptam**
- E) Vikramankadevacharita**

Codes:

- (a) I-C, II-D, III-E, IV-B
- (b) I-C, II-D, III-B, IV-E**
- (c) I-E, II-C, III-D, IV-A
- (d) I-A, II-C, III-E, IV-B

Answer: (b)

The correct matching is: Var hamihira – B[hat-Samhit (I-C), Vi[khadatta – Dev+-Chand Zkdraka – M[cchakamikam (III-B), and BilhaGa – Vikram Ekadeva-carita (IV-E). Option (I combination; the other options mis-match at least one author-text pair. ([examrobot.com](https://examrobot.com/content/match-list-i-list-ii-and-select-correct-answer-using-codes-given-below-lists-21?utm_source=openai))

Q5. Prem Vatika, poems on the life of Krishna, was composed by

- (a) Bihari
- (b) Surdas
- (c) Raskhan**
- (d) Kabir

Answer: (c)

Prem Vatika (The Forest of Love) is a celebrated Braj-Bhasha compilation of 53 verses by the 16th-century Sufi-Bhakti poet Raskhan (Syed Ibrahim). Bihari wrote the Satsai, Surdas composed the Sursagar, and Kabir's dohas deal with Nirguna devotion—none authored Prem Vatika. ([sarthaks.com](https://www.sarthaks.com/59051/prem-vatika-poems-on-the-life-of-krishna-were-composed-by?utm_source=openai))

Q8. Which one of the following works has recently been made into a full-length feature film?

- (a) R. K. Narayan's Malgudi Days
- (b) Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children
- (c) Vikram Seth's A Suitable Boy
- (d) Upamanyu Chatterjee's English August**

Answer: (d)

Dev Benegal's 118-minute feature film "English, August" (1994) is an adaptation of Upamanyu Chatterjee's novel. The other works had not been turned into full-length films by 1996 (Malgudi Days was a TV serial, while Midnight's Children and A Suitable Boy were adapted only decades later). ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English%2C_August_%28film%29?utm_source=openai))

Q15. Which one of the following is an important historical novel written during the latter half of the nineteenth century?

- (a) Rast Goftar
- (b) Durgesh Nandini**
- (c) Maharatha
- (d) Nibandhamala

Answer: (b)

Durgesh Nandini (1865) by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay is a celebrated historical romance set in Mughal-Pathan times and belongs to the latter half of the nineteenth century, whereas the other works listed are periodicals or essays, not historical novels. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Durgeshnandini?utm_source=openai))

Q18. According to ancient Indian cosmogonic ideas the sequential order of the cycle of four aeons (Yugas) is

- (a) Dvapara, Krita, Treta and Kali
- (b) Krita, Dvapara, Treta and Kali
- (c) Krita, Treta, Dvapara and Kali**
- (d) Treta, Dvapara, Kali and Krita

Answer: (c)

Classical Puranic cosmology lists the ages in the sequence Krita (Satya) ! Treta ! Dvapara descending moral order gives option (c). The other options mis-order the yugas (e.g., placing Dvapara before Krita or Kali before Treta).

([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1996-solved-question-paper/))

Q25. Which one of the following temples figured in the news regarding the institution of the Devadasis?

- (a) Jagannath temple, Puri**
- (b) Pasupatinath temple, Kathmandu
- (c) Kandariya Mahadeva temple, Khajuraho
- (d) Chausanth Yogini temple, Bheraghat

Answer: (a)

In the mid-1990s the Jagannath Temple at Puri was in the news over the continued presence of devadasis (locally called 'Maharis') attached to the shrine. The other temples listed were not the focus of that contemporary debate. ([scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com/document/731910047/1996))

Q32. Which one of the following is not a part of early Jaina literature?

- (a) Therigatha**
- (b) Acarangasutra
- (c) Suttrakritanga
- (d) Brihatkalpasutra

Answer: (a)

Therigatha is a collection of verses by early Buddhist nuns that forms part of the Pali Buddhist canon; it is not included in the Zvet mbara (or Digambara) Jaina canon. In contrast, c r Ega Sktra, B[hatkalpa Sktra are recognised Jaina gamas. Hence option (a) alone is not a Jaina wo ([scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com/document/731910047/1996))

UPSC 1996

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

moderate

Q35. Which of the following were common to both Buddhism and Jainism?

- I. Avoidance of extremities of penance and enjoyment.
- II. Indifference to the authority of the Vedas
- III. Denial of efficacy of rituals
- IV. Non-injury to animal life

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) I, II, III and IV
- (b) II, III and IV**
- (c) I, III and IV
- (d) I and II

Answer: (b)

Both religions rejected Vedic authority (II), denied the efficacy of elaborate Brahmanical rituals (III), and stressed ahimsa or non-injury to living beings (IV). However, the Buddha's 'Middle Path' avoidance of extremes, whereas early Jain practice encouraged rigorous asceticism; hence statement I is not common. Therefore only II, III and IV are common.

([scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com/document/731910047/1996))

UPSC 1996

Art & Culture › Scripts & Calligraphy

easy

Q44. Nastaliq was

- (a) a Persian script used in medieval India**
- (b) a raga composed by Tansen
- (c) a cess levied by the Mughal rulers
- (d) a manual of code of conduct for the Ulemas

Answer: (a)

Nastaliq (Nastaʿlīq) is an elegant Persian calligraphic hand that became the principal script for later Urdu texts in medieval India, so option (a) is right; it is not a raga, a tax, or a religious manual. ([sarkaritest.com](https://www.sarkaritest.com/2023/04/upsc-cse-medieval-history-previous-year.html?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1996

Art & Culture › Sculpture & Iconography

easy

Q53. Which one of the following sculptures invariably used green schist as the medium?

- (a) Maurya sculptures
- (b) Mathura sculptures
- (c) Bharhut sculptures
- (d) Gandhara sculptures**

Answer: (d)

Gandhara images of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas were characteristically carved in a green chlorite/blue schist quarried in the Swat–Peshawar region; Maurya (polished sandstone), Mathura (red sandstone) and Bharhut (reddish sandstone) did not employ green schist.

([eleonora.nyc](https://eleonora.nyc/gandharan-schist-of-the-buddha-of-the-future?utm_source=openai))

Q61. Mughal painting reached its zenith under

- (a) Humayun
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Jahangir**
- (d) Shahjahan

Answer: (c)

Contemporary historians of art note that 'Mughal painting reached its climax/zenith during the reign of Jahangir,' owing to his personal patronage and connoisseurship ([historydiscussion.net](https://www.historydiscussion.net/society/cultural-life-during-the-mughal-period-indian-history/708?utm_source=openai)). Hence option (c) Jahangir is correct, while the other emperors saw either the formative (Humayun, Akbar) or declining (Shah Jahan) phases.

Q66. The term apabhramsa was used in medieval Sanskrit texts to denote

- (a) outcastes among the Rajputs
- (b) deviations from Vedic rituals
- (c) early forms of some of the modern Indian languages**
- (d) non-Sanskrit verse metres

Answer: (c)

Medieval grammarians used 'Apabhramsa' for the late Prakrit stages that evolved into modern Indo-Aryan languages like Hindi, Gujarati, etc.; it was not about caste, rituals or metres. Hence option (c) – 'early forms of some modern Indian languages' – is correct.

([scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com/document/829987262/1996-Solved-PYQ-CSE))

Q71. Which one of the following was a Saiva sect in ancient India?

- (a) Ajivika
- (b) Mattamayura**
- (c) Mayamata
- (d) Isanasivagurudevapaddhati

Answer: (b)

Mattamayura (also spelled Muttamayura) was an early medieval Zaiva monastic order centered in the Karnataka region. The other names are unrelated: j+vikas were heterodox ascetics, Mayamata is a Vastushastra text, and Isanasivagurudevapaddhati is a later ritual manual, not a sect. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1996-solved-question-paper/))

Q79. Which one of the following texts of ancient India allows divorce to a wife deserted by her husband?

- (a) Kamasutra
- (b) Manavadharmashastra
- (c) Sukra Nitisara
- (d) Arthashastra**

Answer: (d)

Kautilya's Arthashastra (Book III) permits a wife to abandon/divorce a husband who has become a traitor, lost virility, is of bad character, or has long disappeared, thus allowing remarriage for a deserted wife. Kamasutra, Manusmriti and Sukra Nitisara do not give such explicit legal sanction. ([en.wikisource.org](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Arthashastra/Book_III?utm_source=openai))

Q92. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) Guru Amar Das ... Miri and Piri
- (b) Guru Arjan Dev ... Adi Granth**
- (c) Guru Ram Das ... Dal Khalsa
- (d) Guru Gobind Singh ... Manji

Answer: (b)

Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh Guru, compiled and installed the Adi Granth in the Harmandir Sahib in 1604. The other pairings are incorrect: the doctrine of 'Miri-Piri' is associated with Guru Hargobind, the 'Dal Khalsa' with later 18th-century Sikh misls, and the 'Manji' system with Guru Amar Das. ([lichavilyceum.com](https://lichavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1996-solved-question-paper/))

Q94. The following advertisement appeared in the Times of India dated 7th August:

**"THE MARVEL OF THE CENTURY
THE WONDER OF THE WORLD
LIVING PHOTOGRAPHIC PICTURES IN LIFE-SIZED REPRODUCTIONS BY MESSERS LUMIERE
BROTHERS CINEMATOGRAFIE
A FEW EXHIBITIONS WILL BE GIVEN AT WATSON'S HOTEL TONIGHT".**

It appeared in the year —

- (a) 1931
- (b) 1929
- (c) 1921
- (d) 1896**

Answer: (d)

India's first public screening of moving pictures by the Lumière Brothers at Watson's Hotel, Bombay, was advertised for 7 August 1896; hence the year was 1896. The other options refer to later decades (e.g., 1931 marks the first Indian talkie). ([lichavilyceum.com](https://lichavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1996-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1995

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

easy

Q2. The word 'Hindu' as reference to the people of Hind (India) was first used by

- (a) the Greeks
- (b) the Romans
- (c) the Chinese
- (d) the Arabs**

Answer: (d)

Early Arab geographers/traders used the term 'Al-Hind'/'Hindu' for the land and people beyond the Indus; this Arabic usage predates Greek, Roman or Chinese references in that sense. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1995-solved-question-paper/))

UPSC 1995

Art & Culture › Tribes & Communities

easy

Q14. The original home of the gypsies was

- (a) Egypt
- (b) Russia
- (c) India**
- (d) Persia

Answer: (c)

Linguistic and genetic studies show the Roma (Gypsy) people migrated from north-western India around 1,500 years ago; their language retains core vocabulary shared with Hindi and Punjabi and DNA links them to Indian scheduled-caste/tribe groups. Thus their original home was India. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romani_people?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1995

Art & Culture › Architecture & World Heritage

easy

Q24. The Nagara, the Dravida and the Vesara are

- (a) the three main racial groups of the Indian subcontinent
- (b) the three main linguistic divisions into which the languages of India can be classified
- (c) the three main styles of Indian temple architecture**
- (d) the three main musical gharanas of Indian classical music

Answer: (c)

Indian temple architecture is classified into three fundamental styles: Nagara (north Indian spire-shikhara), Dravida (south Indian pyramidal vimana), and Vesara (hybrid Deccan/Hoysala form). The terms have no connection with race, language, or musical gharanas. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1995-solved-question-paper/))

UPSC 1995

Art & Culture › Painting & Visual Arts

easy

Q33. The Mughal School of Painting formed the spinal column of the various schools of Indian miniature art. Which one of the following painting styles was not affected by Mughal painting?

- (a) Pahari
- (b) Rajasthani
- (c) Kangra
- (d) Kalighata**

Answer: (d)

Kalighat (Kalighata) paintings of 19th-century Bengal evolved as a folk style independent of the Mughal court tradition, whereas Pahari, Rajasthani and Kangra schools all show clear Mughal influence in themes, composition and technique.

([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1995-solved-question-paper/))

UPSC 1995

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

moderate

Q42. According to the Mimamsa system of philosophy, liberation is possible by means of

- (a) Jnana
- (b) Bhakti
- (c) Yoga
- (d) Karma**

Answer: (d)

Purva-Mimamsa is also called Karma-Mimamsa because it teaches that scrupulous performance of Vedic ritual actions (karma) alone leads to dharma and ultimately moksha (liberation). It therefore upholds

karma—not jñāna, bhakti or yoga—as the direct means to liberation, making option (d) correct.

([sacred-texts.com](https://sacred-texts.com/hin/dast/dast04.htm?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1995

Art & Culture › Theatre & Cinema

easy

Q43. The lead character in the film The Bandit Queen has been played by

- (a) Pratibha Sinha
- (b) Rupa Ganguly
- (c) Seema Biswas**
- (d) Shabana Azmi

Answer: (c)

Shekhar Kapur's film "Bandit Queen" (1994) featured Seema Biswas in the lead role of Phoolan Devi; this performance earned her the National Film Award for Best Actress. The other listed actresses did not portray the character, so option (c) is correct.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bandit_Queen?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1995

Art & Culture › Sculpture & Iconography

easy

Q52. Bronze icons of Nataraja cast during the Chola period invariably show the deity with

- (a) eight hands
- (b) six hands
- (c) four hands**
- (d) two hands

Answer: (c)

The classic Chola bronze of Shiva as Nataraja is always shown with four arms—two fore-arms in abhaya mudra and damaru, and two rear arms holding fire and pointing to the raised foot. Two-armed forms are not found in these Chola bronzes. ([sarthaks.com](https://www.sarthaks.com/3528582/bronze-icons-of-nataraja-cast-during-the-chola-invariably-show-the-deity-with?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1995

Art & Culture › Architecture & World Heritage

easy

Q58. Which one of the following monuments has a dome which is said to be one of the largest in the world?

- (a) Tomb of Sher Shah, Sasaram
- (b) Jama Masjid, Delhi
- (c) Tomb of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq, Delhi
- (d) Gol Gumbaz, Bijapur**

Answer: (d)

Gol Gumbaz at Bijapur (1656 CE) has a brick–lime dome about 44 m in diameter, often described as the second-largest masonry dome in the world, far larger than the domes of Sher Shah's tomb, Jama Masjid or Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq's tomb. Hence option (d) is correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gol_Gumbaz?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1995

Art & Culture › Philosophy & Religion

easy

Q88. 88. The concept of Anuvrata was advocated by

- (a) Mahayana Buddhism
- (b) Hinayana Buddhism
- (c) Jainism**
- (d) the Lokayata school

Answer: (c)

In Jainism the laity observe five “anuvratas” (small or partial vows) that are lighter versions of the mahavratas required of monks; the concept is unique to Jain religious discipline and is not found in either strand of Buddhism or in the materialist Lokayata school. ([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Jainism/Ritual-practices-and-religious-institutions?utm_source=openai))