

## IASbaba Daily Prelims Test- [Day 7]

### Topic- Modern India (1700-1857) and Current Affairs

#### 1. In British India, what is 'Dastak' known for?

1. A permit exempting European traders, mostly of the British East India Company, from paying customs or transit duties on their private trade.
2. A permit regulating internal trade, mostly for Indian traders.
3. Fee charged by Indian rulers from European Traders when they trade into their territory
4. Fee charged by British government for the regulation of domestic trade.

#### Solution: 1

**Explanation: Dastak**, in 18th-century Bengal, a permit exempting European traders, mostly of the British East India Company, from paying customs or transit duties on their private trade. The name came from the Persian word for "pass." The practice was introduced by Robert Clive, one of the creators of British power in India, when he had Mir Ja'far installed as nawab of Bengal in 1757. The attempt of Mir Ja'far's successor, Mir Qāsim, to annul the use of *dastaks* led to his overthrow in 1763–64 and the exercise of overt control of Bengal by the British.

Free *dastaks* for private trade were finally abolished by Warren Hastings, governor of Bengal (1775). The system put the Indian trader at a grave disadvantage in competing with the European and was an important factor in the impoverishment of Bengal under early British rule.

**2. Consider the following statements with respect to administration of Maratha and Mughal Empires**

1. The revenue system of Marathas was progressive unlike Mughals who were mainly interested in raising revenues from the helpless peasantry.
2. Maratha failed to give sound administration to the people outside Maharashtra while Mughal's were more successful in effective administration.

**Select the correct statement/s**

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both
4. None

**Solution: 2**

Maratha Empire represented the same decadent social order as the Mughal Empire did and suffered from the same underlying weaknesses. They were less disciplined than the Mughal nobles. Their revenue system was similar to that of the Mughals as also was their administration. Like the Mughals, the Maratha rulers were also mainly interested in raising revenue from the helpless peasantry.

For example, they too collected half of the agricultural produce as tax. Unlike Mughals, they failed even to give sound administration to the people outside Maharashtra. They could not inspire the Indian people with any higher degree of loyalty than the Mughal succeeded in doing.

**3. With reference to Mahalwari System, consider the following statements.**

1. Local Zamindar was responsible, on behalf of all peasants, for the payment of land revenue.
2. The peasant was free to sell or mortgage their land.
3. The system was implemented in western part of United Provinces, Punjab, and some part of central Provinces.

**Choose the correct options.**

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

4. All

**Answer: 4**

**Explanation:** Zamindar was only the intermediate between peasant and government for the collection of revenue. The actual property rights were with the peasant itself.

**4. Consider the statements regarding India's state of trade affairs in 18<sup>th</sup> century**

1. There was a sharp decline in 'Internal trade' of India due to regular looting and foreign invasion.
2. India remained a land of extensive manufactures and became one of them main centres of world trade and industries at the dawn of 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Choose the correct code/s**

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both
4. None

**Solution: 3**

Constant warfare and disruption of law and order in many areas during 18<sup>th</sup> century harmed the country's internal trade. Many trading centres were looted by the contestants for power and by foreign invaders like Nadir Shah. Many of the trade routes were infested with organized bands of robbers, and traders and their caravans were regularly looted.

Since India was on the whole self-sufficient in handicrafts and agricultural products, it did not import foreign goods on large scale. On the other hand, its industrial and agricultural goods had a steady market abroad. Even India remained a land of extensive manufactures. Indian artisans enjoyed fame all the world over for their skill. India was still a large scale exporter of cotton and silk fabrics. It is said by Peter the Great of Russia- " the commerce of India is the commerce of the world and he, who can exclusively command it is the dictator of Europe"

**5. The social and cultural life of 18<sup>th</sup> century India can be best depicted by**

1. Non uniformity of cultural and social patterns all over the country.
2. Friendly relations between the Hindus and the Muslims were a very healthy feature of life in 18<sup>th</sup> century India.
3. The Indian mind of 18<sup>th</sup> century was tied to tradition and superstitions.

**Select the correct code/s**

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

**Solution: 3**

All the statements are correct regarding 18<sup>th</sup> century India.

**6. By signing the famous 'Subsidiary Alliance', Indian state virtually lost control over most of their rights. Which among the following can best represent the status of Indian states under 'Subsidiary Alliance'?**

1. Lost control over sovereignty in external and internal matters
2. Limited rights in defence and foreign relations
3. The Indian rulers became insolvent as a result of exploitation and heavy maintenance of British army.
4. Indian ruler (ally) had a provision to station one European for maintaining diplomatic ties with their neighbouring state on his discretion.

**Select the correct code/s**

1. 1, 2 and 3
2. 2, 3 and 4
3. 1, 2, 3 and 4
4. None

**Solution: 4**

As a result of Subsidiary Alliance, the ally had to agree on the following regulations

- Accept a permanent stationing of British force within his territory and to pay a subsidy for its maintenance. All this was done allegedly for his protection but was, in

fact, a form through which the Indian ruler paid tribute to the Company. Sometimes the ruler ceded part of his territory instead of paying annual subsidy.

- It also provided that the Indian ruler would agree to the posting at his court of a British Resident, that he would not employ any European in his service without the approval of the British, and that he would not negotiate with any other Indian ruler without the consent of Governor-General.
- In reality, they lost the right of self-defence, of maintaining diplomatic ties, of employing foreign experts and of settling disputes with its neighbours.
- It also lost control over the defence and foreign relations. Since statement 2 is wrong, the correct option to select would be (d) i.e None

**7. With reference to Zamindari System, consider the following statements.**

1. The Zamindars were made the owner of the land as long as they were paying the revenue to the Company.
2. Zamindars were allowed to sell or purchase the land and evict the peasants, in case of non-payment of rent.
3. Zamindars had invested in the improvement of the land and crop pattern so that they can maximise their profit in future.

**Choose the correct options.**

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

**Answer: 3**

**Explanation:** Zamindars mostly lived in urban areas, either had no knowledge about agriculture or never took interest in the development of land or improving crop pattern.

**8. Consider the following statements about ideals of Brahmo Samaj established by Raja Ram Mohan Roy.**

1. The Samaj was open for all caste and creeds.
2. Brahma is the supreme immortal soul from whom all humans are originated, so only Brahma's idol or image can be used for his worship.
3. The worship was performed through prayers and mediation and readings from Upanishads.

**Choose the correct options.**

1. 1 & 2
2. 2 & 3
3. 1 & 3
4. All are correct

**Answer: 3**

**Explanation:** Idol, image, statue, painting ,sacrifice and religious rituals inside the Samaj building was not allowed.

**9. Consider the following statements.**

1. Lord Dalhousie's Government was responsible for passing two important acts related to social reform- Women Disability Act & Widow Remarriage Act (1856).
2. Hindu Women was not permitted to remarry as per the Veda, Shastras and Smritis.

**Choose the correct options.**

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both
4. None

**Answer: 1**

**Explanation:** Hindu Women was not permitted to remarry. This was not as per the Vedas, but as per the Shastras, Smritis and Hindu Society.

**10. With reference to Ryotwari System, consider the following statements.**

1. The pioneer of Ryotwari Settlement was Thomas Munro.
2. Land revenue was collected directly from the peasant or ryot.
3. The other name of this system is 'Permanent Settlement'.
4. As the Ryots had direct link with the Governments the role of money lenders was minimal.

**Choose the correct options.**

1. 1, 3 & 4
2. 1 & 2
3. 1, 2 & 3
4. All

**Answer: 2**

**Explanation:** 'Permanent Settlement' is another name of Zamindari system not Ryotwari. The high rate of taxation forced the peasants to borrow money from money lenders (mahajans)

## Current Affairs

**11. Consider the following regarding 'Uranium Enrichment'**

1. Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) has lower than 30% concentration of Uranium-235 that is a weapons grade.
2. Highly enriched Uranium (HEU) has more than 30% concentration of Uranium-235 and used in nuclear reactors and research.
3. Uranium in natural condition is found as U-235 but unless processed through 'enrichment', cannot be used for civilian or weapons-grade technologies.

**Select the correct statement/s**

1. 1 and 2
2. 2 and 3
3. 1, 2 and 3
4. None

**Solution- 4**

Natural Uranium is 99 % U-238 isotope. LEU has lower than 20% concentration of U-235- used in civilian purpose/nuclear reactors. HEU – more than 20 % of U-235, used for weapons-grade.

**12. Amongst the following that is/are not a 'STAR-**

1. Pulsar
2. Supernova
3. Quasars
4. Pluto

**Select the correct code**

1. 1, 2 and 3
2. 2, 3 and 4
3. 1, 3 and 4
4. All

**Solution- 2**

**Only Pulsar is a star.**

**13. 'Recently NASA has solved the mystery of formation of Quasars'. Consider the following statements in its reference**

1. Quasars are the brightest object in the universe.
2. They exhibit similar properties as galaxies.

**Select the wrong statement/s**

1. Only 1
2. Only 2
3. Both
4. None

**Solution- 4**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/nasas-hubble-finds-formative-years-of-quasars/article7336606.ece>

**14. Recently RBI announced 'Strategic Debt Restructuring (SDR) Scheme'. It is-**

1. To allow flexible norms for lenders to pay debt.
2. To allow lenders only Public and Private Banks to convert their loans into equity stake



3. To allow banks and non-banking lending institutions to convert their loans into equity stake

**Select the correct code**

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

**Solution- 4**

The banking regulator RBI issued new norms for **Strategic Debt Conversion (SDR)** which will give lenders the right to convert their outstanding loans into a majority equity stake if the borrower fails to meet conditions stipulated under the restructuring package.

<http://www.indiafilings.com/learn/rbi-strategic-debt-restructuring-scheme/>

**15. 'Indian Banks are witnessing rising NPA's (Non-Performing Assets) due to the slowdown in the Indian economy and high interest costs'. What are the tools issued by RBI to tackle rising NPA?**

1. Asset Reconstruction Companies
2. SARFESI Act
3. Joint Lenders Forum
4. KYC norm

**Select the correct code-**

1. 1, 2 and 4
2. 2, 3 and 4
3. 1 and 4
4. All

**Solution- 4**

All are steps towards controlling NPA.

<http://www.indiafilings.com/learn/rbi-strategic-debt-restructuring-scheme/>