

October 25, 2018

Q.1) 'Bangaram Island' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) Lakshadweep
- b) Goa
- c) Odisha
- d) West Bengal

Q.1) Solution (a)

Bangaram is an atoll in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep,

Q.2) What is 'Hiyang Tannaba'?

- a) A traditional boat race of Manipur
- b) Martial Art of Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Colourful Motifs done with hands and paint made of rice and flour on auspicious occasions in Mizoram.
- d) An instrument played by Buddhist Monks

Q.2) Solution (a)

Hiyang Tannaba is a traditional boat race of Manipur dating back to a few centuries and was originally celebrated during the Manipuri Lunar month of Hiyangei Tha or October-November. The race begins with a ritualistic ceremony to Lord Sanamahi or the ruling deity of every Manipuri household, praying for safety and protection.

Q.3) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Bala Bodhisattva'

1. It was found in Sarnath in early 1900s
2. The inscription on it states that Kanishka I had several kshatrapas under his commands in order to rule his vast territory

Select the correct statements

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

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Q.3) Solution (c)

The Bala Bodhisattva is an ancient Indian statue of a Bodhisattva, found in 1904-1905 by German archaeologist F.O. Oertel (1862-1942) in Sarnath, India. The statue has been decisive in matching the reign of Kanishka with contemporary sculptural style, especially the type of similar sculptures from Mathura, as its bears a dated inscription.

The inscription on the Bodhisattva explains that it was dedicated by a "Brother" (Bhikshu) named Bala, in the "Year 3 of Kanishka". This allows to be a rather precise date on the sculptural style represented by the statue, as year 3 is thought to be approximately 123 CE.

The inscription further states that Kanishka (who ruled from his capital in Mathura) had several satraps under his commands in order to rule his vast territory: the names of the Indo-Scythian Northern Satraps Mahakshatrapa ("Great Satrap") Kharapallana and the Kshatrapa ("Satrap") Vanaspara are mentioned as satraps for the eastern territories of Kanishka's empire. At the same time a "General Lala" and Satraps Vespasi and Liaka are mentioned as in charge of the north.

Q.4) 'Gandikota Gorge' is formed by which of the following rivers?

- a) Brahmaputra
- b) Godavari
- c) Pennar
- d) Krishna

Q.4) Solution (c)

The almost forgotten gorge of Gandikota is situated on the Pennar River in Andhra Pradesh and is known as the Grand Canyon of India. A gorge is any valley formed by a source of water flowing between tall slabs of steep rocks.

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Hiuen Tsang'

1. He was known as 'Prince of Pilgrims'
2. He travelled India during the reign of Chandra Gupta II

Choose the appropriate code

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only

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- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.5) Solution (a)

Hiuen Tsang (also Xuanzang, Hsuan Tsang) was the celebrated Chinese traveler who visited India in Ancient Times. He has been described therefore as the "Prince of Pilgrims."

His visit to India was an important event of the reign of Harshavardhana. India is much indebted to this Chinese traveller for the valuable accounts he left behind with many details of political, religious, economic, social conditions of those days.

Harsha (c. 590–648), also known as Harshavardhana, was an Indian emperor who ruled North India from 606 to 648 from his capital Kannauj. He was the founder and ruler of the Empire of Harsha. Harshavardhana was the last Hindu emperor of united North India.

Harsha is widely believed to be the author of three Sanskrit plays Ratnavali, Nagananda and Priyadarsik

