

IASbaba 60 Day Plan 2020 – Day 27 History

Q.1) Consider the following pairs:

Period/Age	Characteristic Feature
1. Palaeolithic Age	Microliths
2. Mesolithic Age	Invention of pottery
3. Neolithic Age	Discovery of fire

Which of the pairs given above are *incorrectly* matched?

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

Q.1) Solution (d)

- The Indian Stone Age is classified primarily into three types:
 - Palaeolithic Age (5,00,000–10,000 BCE) - Hunters and Food Gatherers
 - Mesolithic Age (10,000–6000 BCE) - Hunters and Herders
 - Neolithic Age (6,000–1000 BCE) – food producing stage.
- During the **Palaeolithic Age** man had no knowledge of agriculture, house building, pottery, or any metal. It was only in later stages that they attained the **knowledge of fire**. Man, during this period, used tools of unpolished, undressed rough stones – mainly hand axes, cleavers, choppers, blades, burin, and scrapers.
- The characteristic tools of **Mesolithic age** were **microliths** (miniature stone tools usually made of crypto-crystalline silica, chalcedony, or chert, both of geometrical and non-geometrical shapes). They were not only used as tools in themselves but also to make composite tools, spearheads, arrowheads, and sickles after hafting them on wooden or bone handles.
- The **Neolithic era** communities **first made pottery by hand** and then with the help of the potter's wheel. Their pottery included black burnished ware, grey ware, and mat-impressed ware.

Q.2) In which of the following pre-historic sites the presence of a three-fold Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Iron Age settlements were found?

- a) Piklihal

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- b) Koldihwa
- c) Burzahom
- d) Paiyampalli

Q.2) Solution (b)

Some of the important excavated Neolithic Sites along with their unique aspects are as follows:

- Burzahom (unique rectangular chopper, domestic dogs buried with their masters in graves) and Gufkraal in Jammu and Kashmir (famous for pit dwelling, stone tools, and graveyards located within households)
- Maski, Brahmagiri, Piklihal (proof of cattle herding), Budihal (community food preparation and feasting), and Tekkalakota in Karnataka.
- Paiyampalli in Tamil Nadu and Utnur in Andhra Pradesh
- Garo Hills in Meghalaya, Chirand in Bihar (considerable use of bone implements, especially those made of antlers)
- Saraikhola, near Taxila on Potwar plateau, Amri, Kotdiji and Mehrgarh (the earliest Neolithic site known as the Breadbasket of Baluchistan, a province of Pakistan)
- **Koldihwa, in Belan valley (unique in terms of the presence of a three-fold Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Iron Age settlements),** Koldihwa and Mahagara, south of Allahabad (many strata of circular huts along with crude hand-made pottery; earliest evidence of rice cultivation in the world)
- Chopani – Mando, Belan valley (earliest evidence of use of pottery)
- Belan Valley, on the northern spurs of the Vindhya, and the middle part of the Narmada valley (evidence of all the three phases of Paleolithic settlement, followed by Mesolithic and Neolithic settlements)

Q.3) Consider the following pairs:

<i>Harappan site</i>	<i>River</i>
1. Mahenjadarō	Indus
2. Kalibangan	Sindh
3. Alamgirpur	Hindon
4. Harappa	Sutlej
5. Lothal	Bhogava

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- b) 1, 2 and 5 only
- c) 1, 3 and 5 only
- d) 2, 4 and 5 only

Q.3) Solution (c)

Some of the important Harappan sites along with rivers on which it is located are:

- **Indus – Mahenjadar**o (Pakistan), Chanhudaro (Pakistan).
- **Ravi – Harappa** (Pakistan).
- **Ghaggar – Kalibangan** (Rajasthan).
- Sutlej – Ropar (Punjab).
- Sindh – Kot Diji (Pakistan), Amri (Pakistan).
- Rangoi – Banawali (Haryana).
- **Hindon – Alamgirpur** (Uttar Pradesh).
- **Bhogava** (Tributary of Sabarmati) – **Lothal** (Gujarat).

Q.4) With reference to Harappan Civilization, consider the following statements:

1. The roads were laid out along a grid pattern.
2. The citadels inhabited by the ruling class were built in the east part of the city.
3. The Great Bath made up of stone was used for ritual bathing.

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

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

Q.4) Solution (d)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect

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One of the most distinctive features of Harappan cities was the carefully planned drainage system. Roads and streets were laid out along an approximate 'grid' pattern, intersecting at right angles.	The Citadels or Acropolis in Harappan civilization were built in the west part of the city. It was occupied by the members of the ruling class. Below the citadel in each city lay a lower town containing brick houses, which were inhabited by the common people.	Great Bath was situated in the citadel mound and it served ritual bathing. It was built of burnt bricks.
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Q.5) Which among the following animals are identified on the Pashupati Seal of Indus Valley Civilization?

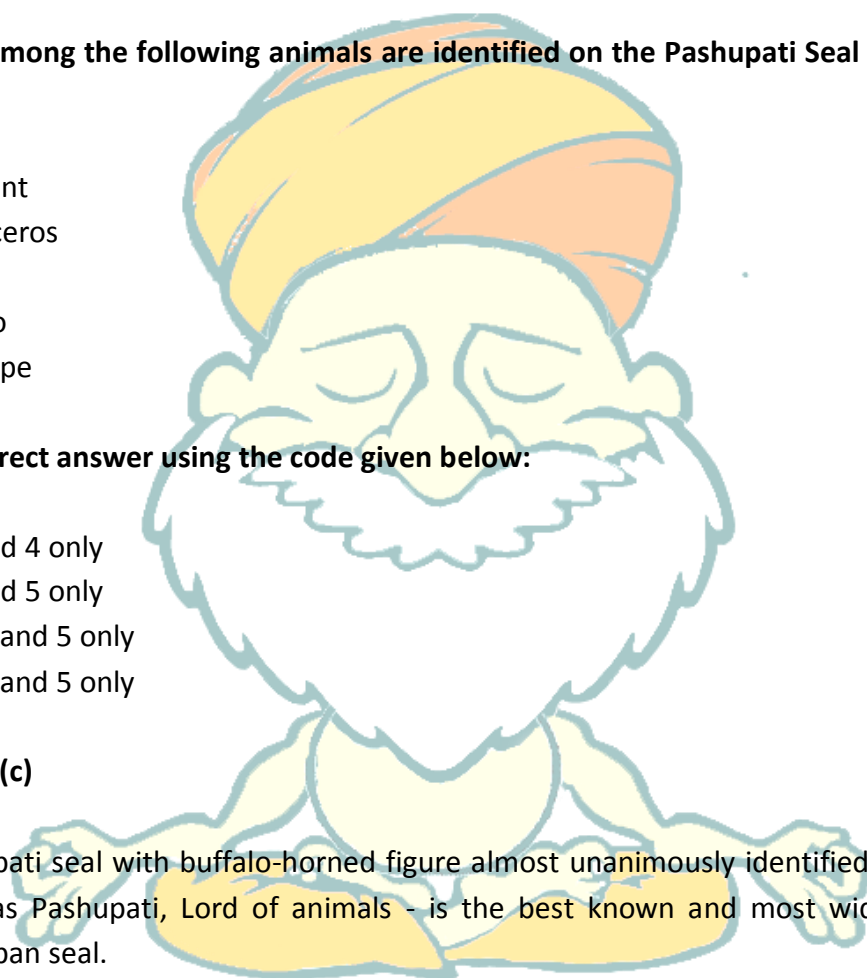
1. Elephant
2. Rhinoceros
3. Lion
4. Buffalo
5. Antelope

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- b) 1, 4 and 5 only
- c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

Q.5) Solution (c)

- Pashupati seal with buffalo-horned figure almost unanimously identified as Shiva in his form as Pashupati, Lord of animals - is the best known and most widely contextual Harappan seal.
- He has been portrayed as seated cross-legged, that is, in Yogic 'padmasana', and wide-armed. The arms of the image pointing towards the earth, the Yogic nature of the wide-lapped stance and the curved horns, transmit power and establish equilibrium.
- An **elephant** and a **tiger** are depicted to the right side of the seated figure, while on the left a **rhinoceros** and a **buffalo** are seen. In addition to these animals **two antelopes** are shown below the seat.



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Q.6) With reference to socio-economic life during Rig Vedic period, consider the following statements:

1. The society was clearly divided into four *varnas* - Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras.
2. Agriculture was the dominant economic activity.
3. The unit of currency was *niskha*, which was made of gold.

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

Q.6) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Correct
The social divisions were not rigid during the Rig Vedic or Early Vedic period (1500 – 1000 B.C.). One of the most important changes from the Rig Vedic society was the rise and growth of social differentiation in the form of the <i>varna</i> system. The Later Vedic society was clearly divided into four <i>varnas</i>: Brahmanas, Rajanyas or Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras.	Since the Rig Vedic society was a pastoral society, cattle rearing was their dominant activity. The chief measure of wealth was cattle and a wealthy man was known as <i>Gomat</i> , that is to say, one who owned many cattle. Agriculture became the chief occupation during the later Vedic Period (1000 – 600 B.C.).	Evidence of trade and commerce is meagre during the Rig Vedic period, and trade was conducted on barter system. The clan as a whole enjoyed rights over the resources. The unit of currency was <i>niskha</i>, which was made of gold.

Q.7) With reference to *Sabha* and *Samiti*, two popular political organisations during Vedic Culture, consider the following statements:

1. The *Sabha* was a council of elders while *Samiti* was a general assembly of the entire people.
2. The *Sabha* and *Samiti* lost their importance during the later Vedic period.

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

Q.7) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Correct
There were two popular bodies called the <i>Sabha</i> and <i>Samiti</i> . The <i>Sabha</i> was a council of elders. The <i>Samiti</i> was a general assembly of the entire people.	In the later Vedic period, a large number of new officials were involved in the administration in addition to the existing <i>purohita</i> , <i>senani</i> and <i>gramini</i> . At the lower levels, the administration was carried on by the village assemblies. The importance of the <i>Sabha</i> and <i>Samiti</i> had diminished during the later Vedic period.

Q.8) Consider the following statements about Bimbisara:

1. He belonged to the Saisunaga dynasty of Magadha Kingdom.
2. He consolidated his position by matrimonial alliances.
3. He was a contemporary of both Vardhamana Mahavira and Gautham Buddha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.8) Solution (c)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Correct

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Bimbisara (546-494 BCE) belonged to the Haryanka dynasty of Magadha Kingdom. Capital at Rajgriha (Girivraja), which was an impressive city and almost impregnable as surrounded by five hills, the openings in which were closed by stone walls on all sides.	He strengthened his position by three matrimonial alliances. Marriage relations with the different princely families gave enormous diplomatic prestige and paved the way for expansion of Magadha westward and northward. His first wife was from Kosala named Mahakoshala (sister of Prasenjit), who brought in dowry the territory of Kashi, which yielded a revenue of 1,00,000 coins. He married Chellana, Lichchhavi Princess from Vaishali.	He was a contemporary of both Gautham Buddha and Vardhamana Mahavira. However, both religions claim him as their supporter and devotee.
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Q.9) Arrange the following 'Mahajanapadas' from east to west.

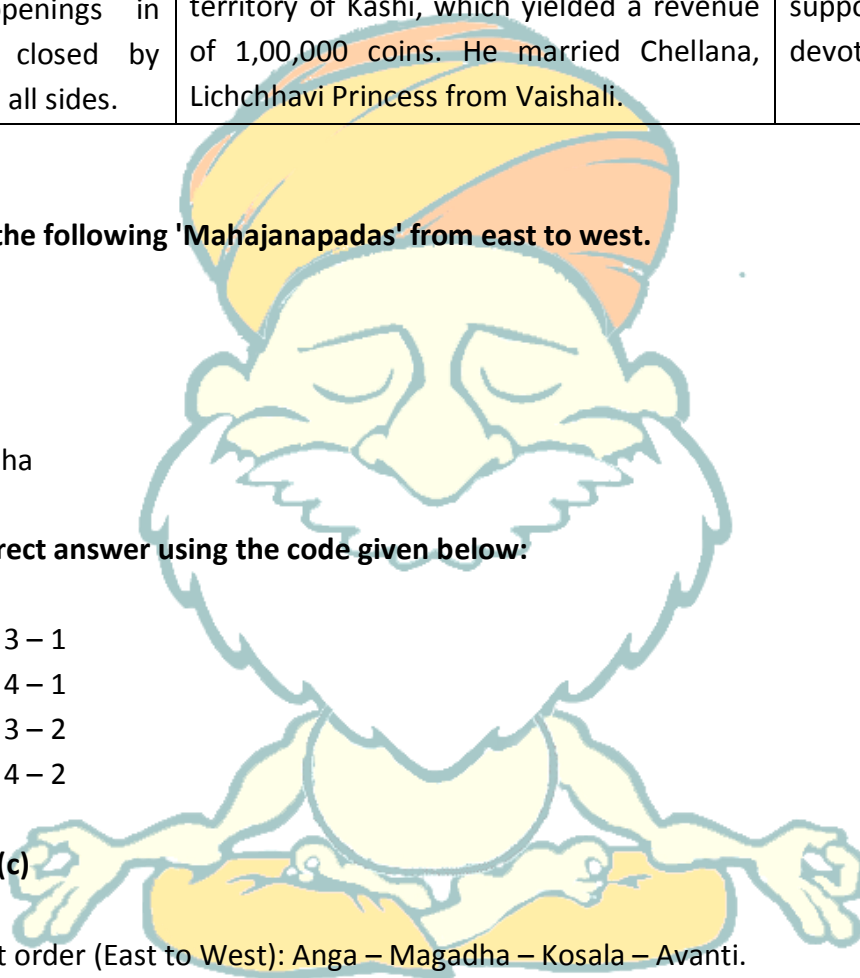
1. Anga
2. Avanti
3. Kosala
4. Magadha

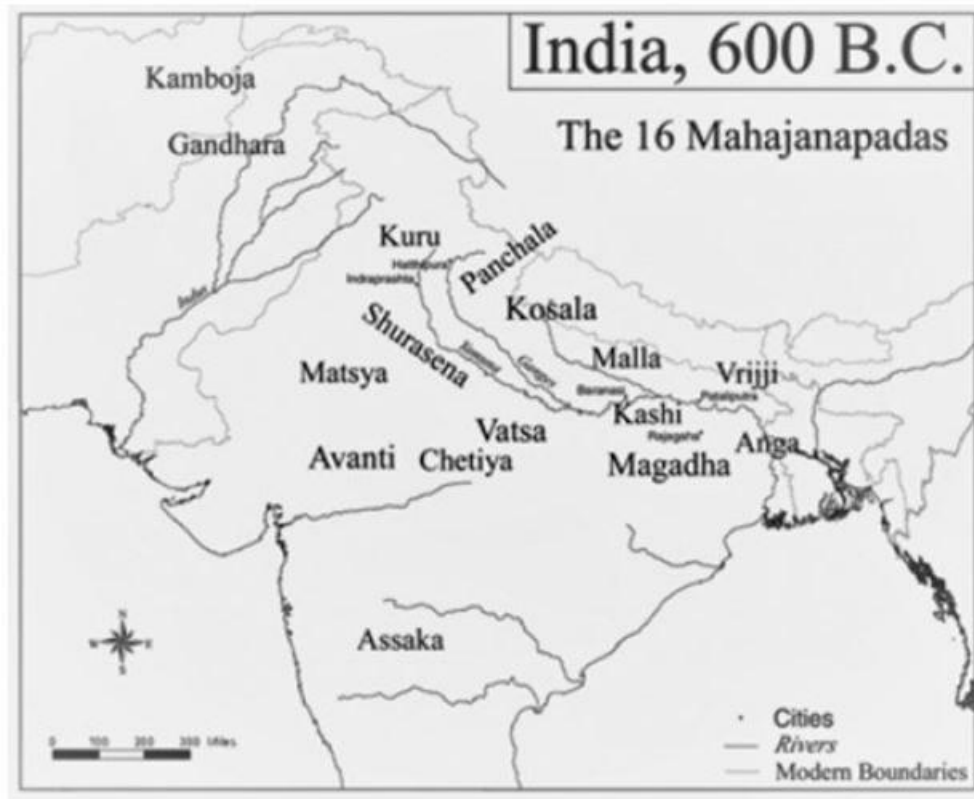
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.9) Solution (c)

- Correct order (East to West): Anga – Magadha – Kosala – Avanti.





Q.10) Who among the following was chief of Revenue department and in charge of the collection of all revenues of the Empire in the Mauryan Administration?

- a) Yuktas
- b) Samharta
- c) Rajukas
- d) Nikayas

Q.10) Solution (b)

- The Maurya period was marked by innovative administrative changes and an elaborate administration.
- The king appointed a council of ministers to assist him in day-to-day administration called *Mantriparishad*.
- *Amatyas* (all high officials, counsellors, and executive heads of departments/ ministers) were the civil servants to look after day-to-day administration.
- There were also bodies of **Nikayas** (trained officials) who looked after the ordinary affairs of the realm.

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- Among all the executive officials, **Samahartri or Samharta** (chief collector of revenue) was the most important and **his responsibility involved maintaining accounts and collection of taxes from all types of sources.**
- Most of the superintendents mentioned above functioned on his orders.
- The provinces were further divided into divisions headed by *Pradeshikas*, who had no advisory council. Divisions were divided into districts under officials called **Rajukas**. He was assisted by **Yuktas** (clerks) in accounting, secretarial, and other miscellaneous works.
- Districts were in turn divided into groups of 5 or 10 villages headed by *Sthanikas* (who collected taxes), and were assisted by *Gopas* (who maintained proper records and accounts).
- The lowest administrative unit was the village, headed by *Gramini/Gramika* on the consultation of *Gramavridhdhas* (village elders).

Q.11) Which of the following are the literary sources of Mauryan history?

1. Megasthenes Indica
2. Hemachandra's Parishishtaparvan
3. Jataka Stories
4. Vishakhadatta's Mudrarakshasa

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.11) Solution (d)

- The Maurya period is a remarkable period in the early history of Indian subcontinent. It marks the establishment of the first subcontinental empire.
- The sources of the Maurya period are more varied and considered more authentic than the earlier periods. The literary sources like **Arthashastra of Kautilya, Indica of Megasthenes**, and the Junagarh Inscription of Rudradaman I, which attributes to the beginning of construction of a Sudarshana lake during Chandragupta's reign), and edicts issued by Ashoka that throw a clearer light on the history of this period.

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- The other major literary sources for the period include **Hemachandra's Parishishtaparvan** (establishing Chandragupta's connections with Jainism); **Vishakhadatta's Mudrarakshasa** from the 5th century (a historical drama describing the clever machinations of Chanakya against Chandragupta's enemies); Dandin's *Dashakumaracharita*; Banabhatta's *Kadambari*.
- The trinity of Buddhist texts that give us an account of Chandragupta's life, namely, the *Mahavamsa*, *Milindapanho*, and *Mahabhashya*; the Buddhist *Dipavamsa*, *Ashokavadana*, *Divyavadana* (these three texts, as well as the *Mahavamsa*, give us an account of Ashoka); the *Vamsatthapakasini* (a 10th century commentary on the legend of Chanakya and Chandragupta); as well as *Mamulanar's* reference to the southward expansion of the Mauryas.
- Apart from these texts, the Puranas and the **Buddhist literature such as Jatakas** provide information on the Mauryas.

Q.12) Consider the following statements with regard to edicts of Ashoka:

1. They were written either in Prakrit or Pali only.
2. They deal with Ashoka's Dhamma and also give instructions to his official.
3. The XII rock edict gives details about his war with Kalinga.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Q.12) Solution (a)

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The inscriptions of Ashoka were first deciphered by James Prinsep in 1837. They were written in Pali language and in some places Prakrit was used. In parts like Kandhar, Greek and Aramaic languages are used as well.	There are fourteen major rock edicts. The XIII (13th) rock edict gives details about his war with Kalinga .	The Pillar edict VII (7th) edict gives a summary of his efforts to promote the dhamma within his kingdom.

Q.13) Consider the following pairs:

<i>System or Practice</i>	<i>Introduced or started by</i>
1. Military Governorship	Indo - Greeks
2. 'Satrap' System of Government	Kushanas
3. Giving royal grants of land to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks	Sakas

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.13) Solution (a)

- The Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue coins (gold, silver, copper, and nickel) which can be definitely attributed to any dynasty and were also the first to issue gold coins in India (which increased in number under the Kushanas).
- The Central Asian conquerors introduced new styles in administration. For instance, the **Indo-Greeks introduced the practice of military governorship** wherein they appointed military governors called *strategos* while the **Kushanas introduced the 'Satrap' system of government**, under which the empire was divided into numerous *satrapis* and each *satrapi* was placed under the rule of a *satrap*. These systems led to the development of a feudatory organisation wherein these Central Asian conquerors established their supremacy over numerous small princes who regularly paid tributes to them.
- The **Satavahanas** assumed the title of *Dakshinapathapati* (Lord of the Dakshinapatha). The Satavahanas are also known in history **for starting the practice of giving royal grants of land to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks**, including those associated with tax exemptions. It is mentioned in one of the inscriptions of Gautamiputra Satkarni that *the* land gifted to the Brahmanas was not to be entered or disturbed by the royal troops, was not to be dug for salt, was free from the control of state officials, and was to enjoy all sorts of *pariharas* (immunities). They also promoted Buddhism by granting land to the monks.

Q.14) Which of the following statements about Satavahana is/are correct?

1. The ruler, Gautamiputra Satakarni issued coins on which the image of ships was inscribed.
2. The greatest port of the Satavahanas was 'Kalyani' on the west Deccan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.14) Solution (b)

Statement 1	Statement 2
Incorrect	Correct
Gautamiputra Satakarni was succeeded by his son Vashishtaputra Pulamayi . Pulamayi extended the Satavahana power up to the mouth of the Krishna river. He issued coins on which the image of ships was inscribed . They reveal the naval power and maritime trade of the Satavahanas.	The greatest port of the Satavahanas was 'Kalyani' on the west Deccan . Gandakasela and Ganjam on the east coast were the other important seaports.

Q.15) Match the following titles with respective Gupta rulers:

1. Rajadhiraja	A. Chandragupta - I
2. Sakari	B. Ghatotkacha
3. Maharajadhiraja	C. Chandragupta - II
4. Nepolian of India	D. Samudragupta

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1 – B; 2 – C; 3 – A; 4 – D
- b) 1 – B; 2 – A; 3 – C; 4 – D
- c) 1 – D; 2 – C; 3 – A; 4 – B

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d) 1 – D; 2 – A; 3 – C; 4 – B

Q.15) Solution (a)

- The founder of the Gupta dynasty was Sri Gupta. He was succeeded by **Ghatotkacha**. These two were called **Maharajas**.
- **Chandragupta - I** (320 – 330 A.D.): First important king of the Gupta Dynasty; laid the foundations of the Gupta empire and claimed the title of **maharajadhiraja** (king of kings). He started Gupta era in 319–20 CE, which presumably marks his accession date.
- **Samudragupta** (330 – 380 A.D.) son of Chandragupta I, who followed a policy of war and conquest and enormously enlarged his kingdom. His rule was one of expansion marked first by the conquest of his immediate neighbours and then by campaigns to the east and the south, where chiefdoms and kingdoms were subdued and forced to pay tribute to him. Due to this policy of his, the historian V. A. Smith has called him the '**Napoleon of India**'.
- The peak of the territorial expansion of the Gupta empire was reached during **Chandragupta - II**'s reign, who extended the limits of his empire by conquests and marital alliances with other royal dynasties of the period. He took the title of Vikramaditya, that is, the one who is as powerful as the sun, and Simhavikrama. After the victory over Saka satraps of western India, he performed the horse sacrifice and assumed the title **Sakari**, meaning the destroyer of Sakas.

Q.16) With reference to the judicial system during Guptas, consider the following statements:

1. Civil and criminal laws were clearly demarcated for the first time.
2. The office of *mahanadanyaka*, who functioned as chief justice held the supreme judicial power.
3. The guild of artisans was governed by their own laws.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.16) Solution (b)

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Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Incorrect	Correct
The judicial system was far more developed under the Gupta rulers than in earlier times. For the first time, civil and criminal laws were clearly demarcated. Theft and adultery were subjects treated under criminal law. Disputes regarding various types of property formed the body of civil law. Elaborate laws were laid down about inheritance.	However, like earlier periods, laws were based on the varna hierarchy. The supreme judicial power rested with King and he tried cases with the help of the brahmana priests. There was the office of <i>mahanadanyaka</i> , who probably functioned as chief justice. <i>Uparikas</i> and <i>Vishyapatis</i> in their respective territorial jurisdiction dispensed the judicial function.	The guilds of merchants and artisans were governed by their own laws and capital punishment was not at all given (as reported by Fa-Hien).

Q.17) A plough tax imposed during Gupta period is known as

- a) Uparikara
- b) Udranga
- c) Vata-bhuta tax
- d) Halirakara

Q.17) Solution (d)

- The Gupta king collected taxes varying from one-fourth to one-sixth of the produce. Two new agricultural taxes that appear in Gupta inscriptions are **uparikara** (probably a tax imposed on temporary tenants) and **udranga** (its exact nature is not clear, but might be water tax or a sort of police tax).
- There is also mention of **vata-bhuta tax**, which probably refers to cesses for the maintenance of rites performed for the winds and spirits, and **halirakara, probably plough tax**. In addition to these taxes, peasants were also subjected to vishti (forced labour) for serving the royal army and officials.
- Vakataka inscriptions mention of *klipta* (purchase tax or sales tax) and *upaklipta* (additional minor tax).

Q.18) Who among the following Pallava king constructed the port of Mamallapuram?

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- a) Mahendravarman I
- b) Narasimhavarman I
- c) Mahendravarman II
- d) Narasimhavarman II

Q.18) Solution (b)

- **Narasimhavarman I/Mahamalla** (630–668 CE) avenged his father's defeat and not only defeated Pulakeshin II but also invaded the Western Chalukyan kingdom and captured Badami with the help of the Sri Lankan prince, Manavarma and assumed the title 'Vatapikonda'.
- He claimed to have won over not only the Chalukyas but also the Cholas, Cheras and the Kalabhras.
- Dispatched two naval expeditions to help his friend Manavarma, but subsequently Manavarma was defeated and he had to seek political refuge at his court.
- Enthusiastic patron of architecture and along with **constructing the port of Mamallapuram**, he also ordered the construction of the rathas at Mahabalipuram. It is in honour of Narasimhavarman I that Mahabalipuram is also known as Mamallapuram.

Q.19) With reference to Chola village administration, the term 'erivariya' refers to

- a) Assembly of artisans and traders.
- b) Gatherings of adult male members in the agraharas
- c) Tank committee which looked after the distribution of water
- d) Wasteland converted to cultivated land

Q.19) Solution (c)

- The Cholas were famous for their local self-government model, which can be considered as one of the earliest examples of the Panchayati Raj System.
- Ur is the general assembly of the local residents of non *brahmadeya* villages (or *vellanvagai* villages) to discuss matters without any formal rule or procedure.
- Exclusive assembly of *Brahmans*/gatherings of the adult male members in the *agrarahas*, that is, rent free *brahmadeya* villages which enjoyed a large measure of autonomy is known as Sabha or Mahasabha.

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- The affairs of the village were managed by an executive committee to which educated persons owning property were elected either by drawing lots or by rotation. These members had to retire every three years. There were different committees which looked after different activities like law and order, justice, **tank committee known as *erivariya* (which looked after the distribution of water to the fields).**

Q.20) The Chinese traveler, Hiuen Tsang visited the Courts of which of the following?

1. Narasimhavarman I of Pallava
2. Pulakeshi II of Western Chalukyas
3. Harshavardhana

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.20) Solution (d)

- The **Chinese Buddhist pilgrim, Hiuen Tsang visited India during Harsha's reign (606 - 647 A.D.)**. He has left a lengthy account of his travels. He explained the values of Mahayana doctrine and established its superiority over others. He visited the Nalanda University and remained as a student for some time.
- During **Narasimhavarman I (630-668 A.D.) reign**, Hiuen Tsang visited the Pallava capital Kanchipuram.
- The most important event in the reign of **Pulakesin II (608-642 A.D.)** was the visit of Hiuen Tsang to his kingdom.

Q.21) Consider the following Indian cities:

1. Mumbai
2. Chennai
3. Kolkata
4. Gandhinagar

5. Hyderabad

Which of the above are included under UNESCO's Creative Cities Network?

- a) 1,2, 4 and 5 only
- b) 1, 2 and 5 only
- c) 2, 3, and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

Q.21) Solution (b)

- UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN) created in 2004 aims towards a common objective of placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level and to achieve Sustainable Development Goals through innovative thinking and action.
- Network covers seven creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.
- Indian cities in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network are
 - **Mumbai** (Films Creative)
 - **Hyderabad** (Gastronomy)
 - **Chennai** and **Varanasi** (Music)
 - **Jaipur** (Crafts and Folk Arts)

Q.22) Consider the following statements about Operation Muskaan:

1. It aims at rehabilitating missing children.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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

Q.22) Solution (a)

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Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Operation Muskaan / Operation Smile is a dedicated campaign for a month where several activities are taken up by the State Police personnel to trace and rescue the missing children and reunite them with their families.	It is an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to rescue/rehabilitate missing children.

Q.23) Consider the following pairs:

Geographic region	State
1. Sukinda valley	Chhattisgarh
2. Kalapani	Uttarakhand
3. Araku valley	Jharkhand

Which of the pairs given above are *incorrectly* matched?

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

Q.23) Solution (c)

- **Sukinda valley in Odisha** has 90% of India's chromate reserves.
- **Araku valley is in Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Kalapani** is a valley that is administered by India as a part of the Pithoragarh district of **Uttarakhand**, laid claim by Nepal. It is situated on the Kailash Mansarovar route.

Q.24) Which of the following released the 2019 Global Microscope on Financial Inclusion report?

- a) Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- b) Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) World Bank

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Q.24) Solution (b)

- According to the **Economist Intelligence Unit's 2019 Global Microscope on Financial Inclusion report**, the overall environment for financial inclusion has improved globally with India, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay and Mexico having the most favourable conditions for inclusive finance.
- For promoting digital financial inclusion, the report identified four basic enablers
 1. Allowing non-banks to issue e-money
 2. Presence of financial service agents
 3. Proportionate customer due diligence
 4. Effective financial consumer protection

Q.25) Kerala government's 'K-Fon project' aims to

- a) Pay the difference between official Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the rate at which farmers sell their crops.
- b) Provide drinking water to all households in rural Kerala.
- c) Conditionally transfer the cash for school girls.
- d) Provide free high-speed Internet connection.

Q.25) Solution (d)

- **Kerala government has recently cleared the K-Fon project to provide free high-speed Internet connection** to over 20 lakh BPL families in the state.
- Project envisages a State-wide optical fiber network to link houses and offices.
- It also provides Net connectivity at affordable rate for families that do not fall in the BPL bracket.

Q.26) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS)'.

1. The establishment of this cooperation was initiated by Thailand.
2. It is a cooperation framework among CLMV countries and Thailand to utilize member countries' diverse strengths and to promote balanced development in the subregion.

Select the correct statements

- a) 1 Only

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

Q.26) Solution (c)

The Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy or ACMECS is a cooperation framework among Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam to utilize member countries' diverse strengths and to promote balanced development in the subregion. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand initiated the establishment of this cooperation framework in April 2003. The areas of cooperation include, among others, transport, and trade and investment facilitation.

Q.27) 'System for Transfer of Financial Messages' is primarily associated with which of the following countries?

- a) China
- b) Russia
- c) United States of America
- d) India

Q.27) Solution (b)

It is a Russian equivalent of the SWIFT financial transfer system, developed by the Central Bank of Russia.

India, Russia and China are exploring an alternative to the US-dominated SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) payment mechanism in a bid to smoothen trade with countries facing American sanctions.

Russia's financial messaging system SPFS will be linked with the Chinese cross-border interbank payment system CIPS. While India still does not have a domestic financial messaging system, it plans to link the Central Bank of Russia's platform with a service that is under development.

Q.28) 'Budapest Convention' was in news recently. It deals with

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- a) Cybercrime
- b) Extradition
- c) Double Taxation
- d) Transboundary Movements of Medicines

Q.28) Solution (a)

The Convention on Cybercrime, also known as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime or the Budapest Convention, is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime) by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations.

Q.29) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Ecological fiscal transfers (EFTs)'.

1. The world's largest ecological fiscal transfer system was established by India in 2015.
2. EFTs involve higher levels of government distributing funds to lower levels of government based on ecological indicators.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.29) Solution (c)

Ecological fiscal transfers (EFTs) involve higher levels of government distributing funds to lower levels of government based on ecological indicators.

The world's largest ecological fiscal transfer system was established by India in 2015 when India's 14th Finance Commission added forest cover to the formula that determines the amount of tax revenue the Union government distributes annually to each of India's states, alongside historical population, recent population, poverty and area.

Q.30) 'Descriptio Indiæ', a circumstantial description of the twenty-two provinces of India was written by

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- a) Joseph Tiefenthaler
- b) William Finch
- c) Montgomery Martin
- d) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier

Q.30) Solution (a)

Joseph Tiefenthaler wrote a *Descriptio Indiae*, a circumstantial description of the twenty-two provinces of India, of its cities, fortresses, and the most important smaller towns, together with an exact statement of geographical positions, calculated by means of a simple quadrant.

