

UPSC PYQ 2024

Q.1 Which one of the following is a work attributed to playwright Bhasa?

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

Ancient Indian Playwrights (Sanskrit Drama Tradition)

Playwright	Time Period	Major Works	Key Contributions
Bhasa	3rd Century BCE – 3rd Century CE	<i>Swapnavasavadatta</i> , <i>Pratima Natakam</i> , <i>Urubhanga</i> , <i>Madhyama Vyayoga</i>	One of the earliest known playwrights, influenced Kalidasa.
Kalidasa	4th–5th Century CE	<i>Abhijnana Shakuntalam</i> , <i>Malavikagnimitram</i> , <i>Vikramorvashiyam</i>	Golden Age of Sanskrit Drama, plays focused on love, nature, and heroism.
Shudraka	3rd–5th Century CE	<i>Mrichhakatika</i> (The Little Clay Cart)	A realistic social drama, depicting love, comedy, and class struggle.
Bhavabhuti	7th–8th Century CE	<i>Uttara Ramacharita</i> , <i>Mahaviracharita</i> , <i>Malatimadhava</i>	Plays focused on heroism and emotional depth.
Vishakhadatta	7th–8th Century CE	<i>Mudrarakshasa</i> , <i>Devichandraguptam</i>	Known for historical and political themes, particularly Chandragupta Maurya's rise.
Harsha (King Harshavardhana)	7th Century CE	<i>Ratnavali</i> , <i>Nagananda</i> , <i>Priyadarshika</i>	Courtly romantic comedies, focused on royal life.
Raja Bhoja	11th Century CE	<i>Champu Ramayana</i>	Integrated poetry and prose in storytelling.

Major Writers & Their Works in the Gupta Period:

Writer	Field	Major Works	Key Contributions
Kalidasa	Literature & Drama	<i>Abhijnana Shakuntalam</i> ,	- Considered India's greatest Sanskrit

		<i>Raghuvamsa, Kumarasambhava, Meghaduta, Malavikagnimitra, Vikramorvashiyam</i>	poet & dramatist. - His works focus on nature, romance, and heroism.
Aryabhata	Mathematics & Astronomy	<i>Aryabhataiya</i>	- Introduced the concept of zero. - Proposed heliocentric theory and calculated π (pi) and earth's rotation.
Varahamihira	Astronomy & Astrology	<i>Brihat Samhita, Pancha Siddhantika</i>	- Contributed to astronomy, astrology, and natural sciences. - Predicted rainfall, earthquakes, and planetary motions.
Vishakhadatta	Political Drama	<i>Mudrarakshasa, Devichandraguptam</i>	- <i>Mudrarakshasa</i> depicts Chandragupta Maurya's rise with Chanakya's strategy.
Vatsyayana	Social Sciences	<i>Kamasutra</i>	- Early treatise on human relationships, love, and ethics.
Amarasimha	Lexicography	<i>Amarakosha</i>	- One of the earliest Sanskrit dictionaries (thesaurus).
Sushruta	Medicine	<i>Sushruta Samhita</i>	- Detailed text on surgery, medicine, and Ayurveda.
Charaka	Medicine	<i>Charaka Samhita</i>	- Expanded Ayurvedic principles, emphasizing disease prevention.
Brahmagupta	Mathematics	<i>Brahmasphutasiddhanta</i>	- Introduced rules for negative numbers and zero in calculations.

Mahabhasya: written by Patanjali + a book on Sanskrit Grammar + commentary of Panini's Astadhyayi.

About Patanjali:

- In the court of Pushyamitra Shunga around 2nd century BCE.
- Also wrote Yoga sutra.

Q.2 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

Book	Author/Attributed To	Significance
Prajnaparamita Sutra	Nagarjuna	A key text in Mahayana Buddhism , emphasizing emptiness (Shunyata) and wisdom (Prajna) .
Visuddhimagga	Buddhaghosa (5th century CE)	A fundamental Theravāda Buddhist text on meditation, ethics, and wisdom .
Sarvastivada Vinaya	Attributed to early Sarvastivada Buddhist monks	A Vinaya (monastic discipline text) followed by the Sarvastivada school of Buddhism.
Lalitavistara	Traditionally attributed to Mahayana Buddhist scholars , sometimes linked to Ashvaghosha	A biographical account of the Buddha , narrating his life and enlightenment .

Extra info:

Tushita: is one of the heavenly realms in Buddhist cosmology, known as the "Heaven of Joy." It is considered a divine realm where celestial beings (devas) live and where Bodhisattvas reside before their final rebirth to attain Buddhahood.

Q.3 Consider the following information:

Archaeological Site	State	Description
1. Chandraketugarh	Odisha	Trading Port town
2. Inamgaon	Maharashtra	Chalcolithic site
3. Mangadu	Kerala	Megalithic site
4. Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh	Rock-cut cave shrines

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Chandraketugarh

Feature	Details
Location	West Bengal.
Time Period	Pre-Mauryan to Gupta Period (c. 3rd century BCE – 6th century CE).

Associated Ancient Kingdom	Possibly part of Gangaridai, mentioned by Greek historians.
Excavation Findings	- Terracotta figurines of women, animals, and mythical beings. - Beads, seals, and pottery showing Indo-Roman trade. - Brick structures, indicating a well-planned settlement.
Cultural Influence	Shows influences of Mauryan, Shunga, Kushan, and Gupta architecture.
Significance in Trade	Evidence of maritime trade with Rome and Southeast Asia.

Inamgaon:

- Inamgaon was a mid-sized Chalcolithic (Bronze age) era settlement in Maharashtra that thrived between 1600 BCE -700 BCE on **Ghod river (tributary of Bhima)**
- People mostly farmers + pottery making + **Twin-Urn burial** + figurine of Proto **Ganesha** + Goddess **Visira** of Mahabharata
- Adults were buried with vessels containing food and water → believed in life after death +
- Portion below the ankle were chopped off in case of an adult dead body before burial.



Major Megalithic Burial Sites in South India

Site Name	Location	Key Findings	Historical Significance
Adichanallur	Tamil Nadu	Human skeletons, iron tools, gold ornaments, pottery with Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions	One of the oldest Iron Age burial sites in South India.
Keeladi (close to burial sites)	Tamil Nadu	Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions, urban settlement remains	Urbanized Sangam Age culture, linked to megalithic sites.
Kudumiyanmalai	Tamil Nadu	Iron weapons, pottery, burial goods	Shows warrior burials and early metal use.
Sanur	Tamil Nadu	Large stone markers (menhirs), skeletons, pottery	One of the largest megalithic burial sites in Tamil Nadu.
Kodumanal	Tamil Nadu	Iron implements, beads, Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions	Major industrial center for iron and textile production.
Brahmagiri	Karnataka	Weapons, pottery, skeletons	Linked to Ashoka's inscriptions,

			evidence of early habitation.
Maski	Karnataka	Iron artifacts, pottery	Site of Ashoka's edicts, showing interaction between Megalithic and Mauryan cultures.
Hirebenakal	Karnataka	Largest cluster of dolmens in South India	Important Neolithic to Megalithic transition site.
Halegaon	Karnataka	Animal bones, pottery	Evidence of ritual animal sacrifices.
Jonnagiri	Andhra Pradesh	Stone circles, skeletons	Shows early stone monument construction.
Kesanapalli	Andhra Pradesh	Beads, ornaments, tools	Evidence of social hierarchy in burials.
Porkalam	Kerala	Urns, weapons, pottery	One of Kerala's oldest megalithic sites.
Marayur	Kerala	Stone chambers, burial goods	Neolithic to Megalithic transition site.
Mangadu	TN	Iron tools, pottery, beads	

Q.4 Consider the following statements:

1. There are no parables in Upanishads.
2. Upanishads were composed earlier than the Puranas.

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

Upanishads:

- Upa” means nearby and “sada” means sit.
- knowledge imparted by the gurus to their disciples.
- Based upon the principle → Knowledge awards salvation.
- Also called **Vedanta** → [1] written during **last phase of Vedic period** [2] final aim of the Vedas.
- **Reaction** against increasing ritualism in Sanatan.
- Discarded Vedic rituals + more emphasis on **philosophy** and theology like atman, moksha, karma, Brahma, purpose of life etc.

Important facts:

- **Satyameva jayte** is taken from **Mundaka Upanishad**.
- ‘**Aham Brahmasmi**’ and ‘**Tamso ma jyotirgamaya**’ are taken from **Brihadaranyaka Upanishad**.
- **Gayatri Mantra** is contained in **Rig Veda**.
- **Vasudhaiva kutumbakam** → **Mahaupnishad**.

Q.5 Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List released by UNESCO:

1. Shantiniketan
2. Rani-ki-Vav
3. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas
4. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya

How many of the above properties were included in 2023?

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

Rani ki Vav:

- The Solanki Rajputs are also known as the Chalukya family of Gujarat, which was different from the earlier Chalukyan dynasty of Badami.
- It ruled parts of Gujarat and Kathiawar between c.950 and 1300 CE. Bhima I built the Sun temple of Modhera.
- His wife Udaymati built the Rani-ki vav (Queen's step well) in his memory, which is on the list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites.

Hoysala temple architecture: (11-14 CE in Karnataka)

Hoysala style are: stellate/star shape platform + Bhumija style of Vimana + multiple vimana + use of soap stone + intricate carvings + open mandap + multiple shrines.

Examples of Hoysala temples are.

- Channakeshava temple at Beluru (Vishnu)
- Hoysaleswara temple at Halebidu (Shiva)
- Keshava temple Somnathpura (Vishnu)
- They constructed Jain Basadis also. Eg. Savathi Gandhavarana Basadi at Shravanabelagola.

UPSC PYQ 2023

Q.1 In which one of the following regions was Dhanyakataka, which flourished as a prominent Buddhist centre under the Mahasanghikas, located?

- (a) Andhra
- (b) Gandhara
- (c) Kalinga
- (d) Magadha

#Dhanyakataka:

- **Dhanyakataka (also known as Dharanikota)** is located in the present-day Andhra Pradesh state of India.
- It was a prominent **Buddhist center under the Mahasanghikas.**
- It is also believed that the **Great Stupa at Amaravati**, which is one of the most significant Buddhist monuments in India, was situated in the same region.

Buddhist site of Guntapalle

- Location: AP.
- Period: 200 BC
- Features:
- Arched entrance gate similar to Lomus Rishi cave of BArabar.
- Rock cut Stone stupa.
- Belong to Hinayana sect.
- The bronze image of Padmapani was found along with one of the caskets.

Buddhist site of Anakapalle:

- Location: AP
- Period: 5th CE
- Famous for biggest stone stupa of India inside the cave and many votive rock-cut stupas all around the hillock have also been excavated.

sannati/Kanganhalli:

Location: KA

Features:

- An **'abandoned well'** in the eyes of local villagers turned out to be the **magnificent Maha Stupa**, which was referred to as **Adholoka Maha Chaitya** in the inscriptions.
- More significantly, the **stone-portrait of Emperor Ashoka**, surrounded by **his queens and female attendants** was also found.
- While the **Stupa is believed to be one of the largest of its time**, the stone-portrait is considered to be the **only surviving image of the Mauryan Emperor** which had the inscription **'Raya Asoko'** in **Brahmi** on it.
- The Maha Stupa is believed to have been **developed in three constructional phases – Maurya, Early Satavahana and Later**

Satavahana periods stretching from 3rd Century B.C. to 3rd Century A.D. The Stupa is believed to have been destroyed in an earthquake.

Sub-sects of Mahayana

1) Mahasanghika sect:

- 1st sect of Buddhism.
- Born after 2nd Buddhist council after parting ways with Theravada/Stavirvadins
- Reason: difference over interpretation of Vinay Pitaka. Mahasanghika were in favor of more freedom to Buddhist monks living in Buddhist sangha such as more freedom to possess material possessions.
- It was first division in Buddhist sangha.
- The school was first located in the area of Vaiśālī and spread also to southern India, with centres at Amarāvātī and Nāgārjunakonda.
- Later, from Mahasanghika other sects such as Caitika, Kukuttika, Lokottaravadin, Mahayana and Vajryana were born.

2) Lokottaravadins:

- Subsect of Mahayana.
- Notable text is Mahavastu.
- Buddha's teachings (sutras) were beyond conventional understanding and originated from a transcendental realm.

3) Kukkutikas:

- Sub-sect of Mahayana.
- Also known as "the sect of the cock,"
- this was a small Buddhist sect that followed strict rules regarding the use of bowls and robes and avoided the use of certain materials like wool and hemp.

4) Bahusrutiyas:

- Sub sect of Mahayana.
- A group within Buddhism that emphasized learning and reciting numerous Buddhist scriptures.
- emphasis on the teachings of the Buddha, possibly interpreting them in various ways and placing importance on the diversity of teachings.

5) Prajnapativadins:

- Subsect of Mahayana
- A Buddhist school that focused on the development of wisdom (prajna) as a means to attain enlightenment.

6) Madhyamika Sutra:

- Sub-sect of Mahayana
- all the phenomenon have dependent origin thus nothing exist on its own.
- It promoted the doctrine of Shunyawad (emptiness)
- Propounder was Nagarjuna.
- It's a nihilist philosophy.

7) Yogacharya:

- By Vasubandhu in Samudra gupta Court.
- Sub-sect of Mahayana

- **consciousness** is the basis of all experience. All phenomena are created by consciousness.
- Yogacara recognizes three levels of reality: the **dependent** nature, the **constructed** nature, and the **ultimate** nature. The dependent nature is the way things appear to us, while the constructed nature is the way we construct our own reality. The ultimate nature is the underlying reality that is beyond all concepts.
- also called **Vigyanwad**.

Q.2 With reference to ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. The concept of Stupa is Buddhist in origin.
2. Stupa was generally a repository of relics.
3. Stupa was a votive and commemorative structure in Buddhist tradition.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Important Stupas:

Three types of Stupas in Buddhism.

1. Sariraka Stupa – buried bodily remains of the Buddha
2. Paribhogika stupa – buried belongings of Lord Buddha
3. Uddeshika Stupa – Memorial.

It should be noted that Stupas has **upnishdic origin** and thus common among Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism.

#Pre-Mauryan stupas:

1) Piparhwa Stupa:

- Location UP.
- Oldest stupa with Pre-Mauryan origin (400 BC)
- Has body relics of Buddha in a jar with Brahmi inscription on it.
- Buddhas relics from the funeral pyre were collected and divided into eight shares.
- Thus, stupas erected over the bodily relics of Buddha are the earliest surviving Buddhist shrines.
- It is stated that Ashoka (circa 272–232 BCE) being an ardent follower of Buddhism, opened -up seven of these eight stupas, and collected major portion of the relics for enshrinement within innumerable (84000 stupas) built by him in an effort to popularize Buddhism and spread dharma.

2) Rambhar stupa:

- **Kushinagar**
- Erected at the same spot Buddha was **cremated**
- Also referred as **Mukut Bandhan Chaitya** in Buddhist texts.

3) Vaishali Stupa:

- Vaishali Bihar
- One of the 8 original stupa.

- Pre-Mauryan (400 BC)

Mauryan Stupas:

1) Kesariya Stupa:

- Bihar
- Mentioned in travel accounts of Fa-xian and Huan Tsang.
- Built in two phases (Ashoka and Gupta)

2) Sanchi Stupa:

- Built by Ashoka and later gateways called **Torans** were added during Shunga rule.
- A lion capital has also been found at Sanchi, but is in a dilapidated condition.
- built with bricks.
- Sanchi near Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, is a **World Heritage Site**.
- **Belong to Hinayana Buddhism.**
- During Shunga period Shalbhajika, Chhatri, Yashti, Harmika etc were added.
- Torans were added during Satvahana period as it has satvahana inscription.
- They contain erotic images of young women name shalbhajikas (a Yakshini in Buddhism) – lady holding the branch of a tree and images of Manushi Buddha.
- Manushi Buddha □ total 7 Buddhas Vipasin, Sikhi, Vishwabhu, Krakkuchanda, Kanakmuni, Kasyapa and Shakyamuni
- Stories from the Jataka tales are carved here.
- Buddha is shown **symbolically as an empty throne, feet, chhatra, stupas etc.**
- **Torans** are constructed in all four directions.
- **Jataka** stories also became an important part of the narratives.
- There are guardian images on sculptors and **salabhanjika sculptures** are remarkable in their volume (salabhanjika are sculpture of ladies holding the branch of a tree/plate etc).
- 5 pillars called **Ashton** pillars represent 5 important events of Buddha's life.
- Total three Stupas: [1] relics of Buddha [2] relics of Arhats [3] relics of Buddha disciples Sariputta and Mahamogallana

3) Amravati Stupa:

- **Located in Andhra P.**
- It is believed to be built Satvahanas during 200 BC
- Amaravati has a **Mahachaitya** and had many sculptures.
- Like Sanchi stupa, Amaravati stupa also has **pradakshinapatha** enclosed within a **vedika** on which many narrative sculptures are depicted.
- The **torana** of the Amaravati stupa has disappeared over a period of time.
- It belonged to both Hinayana and Mahayana Buddhism.

- The **Dream of Queen Mayadevi** has also been depicted here.

4) Bairat Stupa:

- Location: RJ
- Also called 'Bijak ki Pahadi'
- Built by Ashoka.
- Ashokan inscription has also been found here.
- It was one of the rare circular temple dedicated to Buddhism.

5) Bharhut Stupa:

- Location MP.
- Initially built by Ashoka, later additions were made during Shunga rule.
- Famous for images depicting Buddha's life.
- Images such as Laxmi, Naga King, Queen Maya's dream etc.
- Famous story of Ruru Jataka where a Deer rescuing a Man is also been depicted.

#Post-Mauryan stupas:

1) Maha Stupa:

- Excavated from Sannati/Kanganhalli Karnataka.
- An '**abandoned well**' in the eyes of local villagers turned out to be the **magnificent Maha Stupa**, which was referred to as **Adholoka Maha Chaitya** in the inscriptions.
- More significantly, the **stone-portrait of Emperor Ashoka**, surrounded by **his queens and female attendants was also found**.
- While the **Stupa is believed to be one of the largest of its time**, the stone-portrait is considered to be the **only surviving image of the Mauryan Emperor which had the inscription 'Raya Asoko' in Brahmi on it**.
- The Maha Stupa is believed to have been **developed in three constructional phases – Maurya, Early Satavahana and Later Satavahana** periods stretching from 3rd Century B.C. to 3rd Century A.D. The Stupa is believed to have been destroyed in an earthquake.

2) Dhamek Stupa:

- **Location:** Sarnath UP.
- The Dhamek Stupa was built in 500 CE to replace an earlier structure commissioned by the great Mauryan king Ashoka in 249 BCE.
- The Dhamek Stupa is said to mark the spot where the Buddha gave the first sermon to his first five disciples.
- The wall of the stupa is covered with exquisitely carved figures of humans and birds, as well as inscriptions in the Brahmi script.

3) Chaukhandi Stupa:

- Sarnath.
- Octagonal shape
- Spot where Buddha met his first 5 disciples.

- Originally constructed during Gupta age
- Later, renovated by Govardhan who was the son of Raja todar mal during Humayun period to commemorate his visit.

Stupas outside India:

- Influenced from Gandhara art.
- Mostly Pyramidal in shape
- Ex. Ahan Posh stupa by Kanishka, Kanishka stupa in Peshawar Pakistan, Baudhnath in Nepal, Swedagon in Myanmar, Ruwanwelisya in SL, Borobudur in Indonesia.

Votive Stupa:

- The form of the **stupa**, with its distinctive domelike drum, originates in eight cylindrical structures in which the Buddha's relics were placed after his death.
- Recently at Nalanda many small Votive stupas have been excavated.

Q.3 With reference to ancient South India, Korkai, Poompuhar and Muchiri were well known as

- (a) capital cities
- (b) ports
- (c) centres of iron-and-steel making
- (d) shrines of Jain Tirthankaras

Important ports of Ancient India

Time period and dynasty	Name of the port	Place	Details
Indus valley civilization 2500 BC	Lothal, Dholavira, Amri, Surkotada, Kuntsi	Gujarat	Trade with Mesopotamian civilization
Indus valley civilization 2500 BC	Sutkagendor, Balakot, Allahdino	Pakistan	Trade with Mesopotamian civilization
Mauryan dynasty	Tamralipti/Tamluk	Bengal	Trade with East and south
Mauryan Dynasty	Sounagora	Bangladesh	mouth of Brahmaputra river, mentioned by the Ptolmey in his work Geographia
Mauryan and Gupta Dynasty	Tamralipti	West Bengal	Trade with S-E Asia
Mauryan Dynasty	Sopara	Maharastra	Ashokan rock edicts have been found here
Mauryan and post Mauryan	Broach/Bharuch /Bhrigukaccha/Barygaz a	South Gujarat	Trade with Greek, Romans and Arabs

Sangam age-Cholas	Puhar/kaveripattnam/pompuhar	Tamil nadu at mouth of Kaveri River	Trade with Persia, Greece and Romans
Sangam age-Cheras	Muziris	Kerala	Trade with Egypt, Greece and Romans
Sangam age-Pandyas	Korkai	Kerala	Trade with Egypt, Greece and Romans
Sangam Age	Arikmedu/ Podouke	Puducherry	Chola port dedicated to bead making
Satvahana dynasty	Masulipattnam	Andhra Pradesh	Muslin clothes with Greeks and important port of Golconda Sultans
Satvahana	Ghantashala, Kadura	AP	Port and Buddhist centre

Important Jain pilgrimage sites:

Sammed Shikharji, Jharkhand

- located in the **Parasnath Hills** of **Jharkhand**, India.
- believed to be the place **where 20 of the 24 Jain tirthankaras** (enlightened beings) attained nirvana (liberation).
- Sammed Shikharji is a popular destination for Jain pilgrims, who undertake a **parikrama** (circumambulation) of the mountain as a form of devotion.

Shatrunjaya Hill, Gujarat

- hilltop temple complex located in the town of Palitana in **Gujarat**,
- The complex is located on top of the hill and consists of over **900** Jain temples
- According to Jain tradition, Shatrunjaya Hill is believed to be the place where the first Jain tirthankara, **Rishabhanatha**, attained **nirvana** (liberation).

Girnar, Gujarat

- Girnar is a mountain range located in **Gujarat**, India. It is known for its Jain temples and is considered a significant Jain pilgrimage site. The mountain is also home to several **Hindu** and **Jain** temples and is visited by believers of both religions.
- Temple of **Neminath** and other Jain Tirthankars.
- several Hindu temples, including the Temple of **Dattatreya**, the Temple of **Ambaji**, and the Temple of **Girnar Rudra Mahadev**.

Deogarh, Uttar Pradesh

- Deogarh is a village located in the **Lalitpur** district of Uttar Pradesh, India. It is home to several ancient Jain temples and is an important pilgrimage site for Jains.
- The main temple in Deogarh is the Temple of **Adinatha**, which is dedicated to the first Jain tirthankara, Rishabhanatha.

Pawapuri, Bihar

- Pawapuri is a small town located in the Nalanda district of Bihar, India. It is an important pilgrimage site for Jains and is known for its holy pond, the Jal Mandir.
- Pawapuri is believed to be the place where the last Jain tirthankara, Mahavira, attained enlightenment and attained moksha.

Ranakpur, Rajasthan

- The Ranakpur Jain Temples are a group of Jain temples located in the town of Ranakpur in the Pali district of Rajasthan, India.
- The Ranakpur Jain Temples were built in the 15th century AD and are dedicated to the Jain tirthankara Rishabhanatha. The main temple, known as the Chaumukha Temple

The Dilwara Temples, Rajasthan

- The Dilwara Temples are a group of Jain temples located in Mount Abu, in the Aravalli Range of Rajasthan, India.
- Famous temple of Parswanath and Rishabhath.
- Built by Solanki rulers.
- Made of Marble.

Q.4 With reference to ancient Indian History, consider the following pairs:

Literary work : Author

1. Deuichandragupta : Bilhana
2. Hammira-Mahakauya : Nayachandra Suri
3. Milinda-panha : Nagatjuna
4. Nitiakyamrita : Somadeva Suri

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Important texts of Buddhism and Jainism:

Buddhist literature:

Book name	Subject matter	Basic Information
Vinay Pitaka	Code of conduct of Buddhist monks in Sangha.	Pali. Compiled during 1 st Buddhist council
Sutta Pitaka	Actual teachings of Buddha	Pali. Compiled during 1 st Buddhist council. Contains the five Nikayas such as Digha-Nikaya, Majjhima-Nikaya, Anguttara Nikaya, Khuddaka-Nikaya, Samyutta-Nikaya
Abhidhamma Pitaka	Philosophical interpretation of Buddhist teachings	Pali. Compiled during 3 rd Buddhist council

Dipavamsa (Chronicle of the Island)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oldest historical record of Sri Lanka. • It details the tooth relic and Bodhi Tree's arrival in Sri Lanka. • arrival of Buddha's teaching and preachers in Sri Lanka. • It mentions that Buddha visited Kelaniya and Dighavapi in Sri Lanka. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pali. • Dedicated to Hinayana sect. • authored by several Buddhist monks of the Anuradhapura Maha Viharaya..
Mahavamsa (the great chronicle). 5 th CE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • historical poem in Pali Language • It deals with the royal dynasties of not only Sri Lanka but the whole Indian subcontinent. • world's longest unbroken historical accounts. • The consecration of Asoka and details of Selucus and Alexander have been detailed in it. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It has been profoundly influential in Sinhalese national identity and the modern ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. 2) It deals with Emperor Ashoka's expedition to Sri Lanka and the establishment of the Mahavihara. 3) It recounts the history of Buddhism in India, from Buddha's death to the third Buddhist council.
Milinda Panha (Questions of Milinda) 1st Century BC- 2nd Century AD	Written by Nagsena. Compilation of discussion between Indo-Bactrian King name Milind/Menander.	After the discussion, Menander adopted the Buddhist faith and retired. This event is inscribed on Angkor vat temple of Kambodia.
Nettipakarana (The book of Guidance) 1st Century BCE- 1st Century CE	Written by Mahakaccana. mythological Buddhist scripture	Pali. Part of Khuddaka Nikaya
Petakopadesa 1st Century BCE- 1st Century CE	Written by Mahakaccana.	Khuddaka Nikaya of Theravada Buddhism.
Jatakas	Collection of stories related to Buddha's past lives.	Stories are illustrated on the walls of Sanchi and Bharhut Stupa
Sanskrit Buddhist Literature		
Mahavibhasa Shastra	encyclopedic work on Abhidhamma i.e. Buddhist Philosophy. linked to the Hindu philosophies of Samkhya and Vaisheshika.	Its composition led to the founding of a new school of thought called Vaibhasika .

Buddha Charita	life and teachings of Gautama Buddha. By: Ashvaghosa (80 AD-150 AD)	It is also called Buddhist Ramayana
Saundarananda	By: Ashvaghosa (80 AD-150 AD). About conversion of Nanda who was Buddha's half brother into Buddhism.	
Sariputra Prakaran	By: Ashvaghosa (80 AD-150 AD). It deals with Sariputta , the disciple of Buddha.	
Vajra Suci	By: Ashvaghosa (80 AD-150 AD). About caste system in Vedic texts	
Visuddhimagga	Buddhaghosha (5th century) Interpretation of Buddhist teachings from Sri Lanka view point.	
Madhyamika Karika	BY: Nagarjuna (150 and 250 CE) foundational text of the Madhyamaka school of Mahayana Buddhist philosophy.	commentary on Buddha's "Discourse to Katyayana" .
Prajnaparamita Karika	Nagarjuna (150 and 250 CE) female deity Prajnaparamita Devi , a personification of wisdom also known as the "Great Mother" .	
Sutralankara (4 th CE)	By: Asanga contains the main precepts of the Yogachara or Vigyanavadin school of philosophy of Mahayana Buddhism.	
Divyavadana and Ashokvadna(4 th CE)	By: Asanga information about the history of the Maurya Empire.	
Lalitavistara	By: Asanga story of Gautama Buddha from the time of his descent from Tushita(Heaven) until his first sermon in the Deer	

	Park at Sarnath near Varanasi.	
Sadharna pundarika	unknown	Also called lotus sutra + described as the Bible of half-Asia + belong to Mahayana
Abhidhammakosa	vasubandhu	Buddhist encyclopedia

Jain literature:

The original doctrines of Mahavira were contained in 14 old texts known as Purvas.

Jainism discarded Sanskrit used by the Brahmins and adopted Prakrit to spread its doctrine.

Prakrit also contributed to the growth of Marathi and Kannada.

Prakrit literature

Various literatures were written in Ardhamagadhi (a branch of Prakrit) including Angas, Upangas, Chhedasutras (rules for Jain monks and nuns), Mulasutras, and Sutra-Granthas.

Purvas:

- Digambar literature
- Based on original teachings of Mahaveer
- Written in prakrit.

Angas:

- Angas are Svetambara scriptures consisting of rules of Jaina Sangha, doctrine and teachings of Mahavira. Upangas were the appendices to the Angas.
- It is followed by Svetambaras and not Digambaras.
- The first Jain Council at Pataliputra was presided over by Sthulabhadra around 300 BC. It witnessed the completion of the final compilation of Jain literature called Twelve Angas to replace the 14 Purvas. It also relaxed the rules of monastic life.
- The second Jain Council was conducted in 512 AD at Vallabhi and presided over by Devardhi Kshamasarmana. The 12 angas composed following the first council were lost. Hence, new additions were made in the form of Upangas or minor sections.

Jain Sanskrit literature:

some Jain literature written in Sanskrit includes Kalpasutra by Bhadrabahu containing the biographies of Parswanath and Mahaveer.

Parishishta Parvan by Hemchandra.

Some other non-canonical jain texts:

- The important Jaina writers were Haribhadra (9th A.D.), Santisuri, Devendragani and
- Abhayadeva who lived in 11th century A. D.
- The Kathakosa is a rich mine of stories. It contains the Jaina version of the Nala-Damayanti episode of the Mahabharata.
- The Jainas further possess an extensive poetic literature called Prabandhas and Charitras.

- Trisastisalaka Purushacharita (lives of 63 best men) by Hemachandra, which ranks as a Mahakavya among the Jains.
- Semi-historical works like Prabandhachitamani of Merutunga (1306 A.D.) and the Prabandhakosa of Rajasekhara (1349 A.D.) are important.
- The Digambaras styled the Charitras as Puranas, for instance Padmcharita or Padmapurana by Vimalasuri.
- Jinasena wrote Harivamsapurana which was completed in 783 A.D.

Q.5 “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?

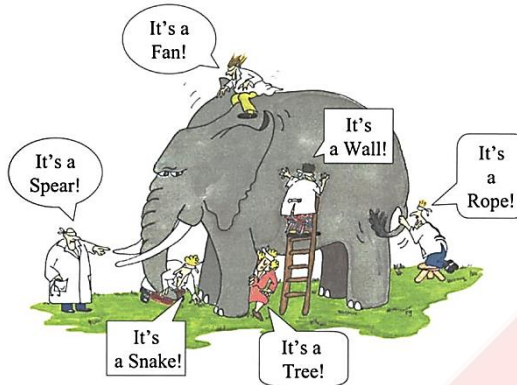
- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism
- (c) Shaivism
- (d) Vaishnavism

Basic Philosophy of Jainism:

- The most important idea in Jainism is that the entire world is animated: **even stones, rocks and water have life.**
- **Non-injury** to living beings, especially to humans, animals, plants and insects, is central to Jaina philosophy.
- In fact the principle of **ahimsa**, emphasised within Jainism, has left its mark on Indian thinking as a whole.
- **Gandhiji** concept of Ahimsa is derived from Jaina Philosophy.
- **karma.**
- **Extreme penance → salvation**
- This can be achieved only by **renouncing** the world; therefore, **monastic** existence is a **necessary condition of salvation.**
- **Jains do not believe in a God** or gods in the way that many other religions do, but they do believe in divine (or at least perfect) beings who are worthy of devotion.
- **World is not governed by some divine power but universal law.**
- Mahavira **rejected Vedic principles.**
- **transmigration of the soul.**
- **Non-materialism.**
- Stressed on **equality** but **did not reject the caste system** unlike Buddhism. Mahavir said birth of a person in a particular Varna is shaped by his Karma in previous life. Good Karma= higher Varna and bad Karma= lower Varna
- Asceticism was taken to a great length. **Starvation, nudity and self-mortification** were expounded.
- The **practice of Santhara/Sallekhana** is also a part of Jainism. It is the ritual of fasting unto death.
- layman → Santhara; ascetic → Sallekhana.

Anekantavad:

- Philosophically an important contribution of Jainism is the **doctrine of Anekantavad (non-absolutism)**.
- As per this, **reality can be examined from many standpoints**. The same thing can be describe from at least seven standpoints and all can be equally true.
- This particular school promotes **tolerance of contrary opinions among the theologists and philosophers**.



Syadwad:

- **No knowledge is certain and absolute.**
- Thus Syatwad is advisable thing to adopt.
- Thus , to every proposition , correct response is **Syat**. (Perhaps).
- There can be **no absolute Judgement of anything**.

Nayawad:

Nayavada is derived from the Sanskrit word "**Naya**", meaning a "viewpoint" or "partial perspective."

It asserts that reality is complex and cannot be fully understood from a single perspective. Instead, it must be examined through multiple partial perspectives, each valid in its context.

Concept of Moksha in Jainism:

- When individual attain supreme knowledge.
- Freed from all karma.
- When a soul is freed from karmas, it becomes free and attains divine consciousness, experiencing infinite knowledge, perception, power, and bliss.
- Moksha is attained though right faith, right knowledge and right conduct (Tri-ratna).

Three tattvas of Jainism:

1. **Asrava** → influx of karma in body
2. **Samvara** → stopping the influx of karma into body
3. **Nirjara** → shedding or removal of accumulated karma from the body.

#. 5 sacred Vows of Jainism:

The five basic principles or vows (vrats) of Jainism are:

1. **Non-violence (Ahimsa):** *Ahimsa* is the cardinal principle of Jainism. This principle stands for universal love and compassion for all living-beings. This vow, therefore, requires one not to injure, oppress, enslave, insult, torture or kill any living-being.
2. **Truth (Satya):** This vow requires that one should not only refrain from falsehood, but speak the truth which is pleasant and not harmful to others. It is better to remain silent if the truth is likely to cause pain
3. **Non-stealing (Achaurya or Asteya):** This vow basically requires that one should be honest in all dealings, not cheat or employ immoral methods to grab/acquire the property/wealth of others.

4. **Celibacy/Chastity (Brahmacharya):** This vow requires that one should not have physical relationship with anyone other than one's spouse.
5. **Non-attachment/Non-possession (Aparigrah):** This vow requires a person to set limit to the worldly wealth that he or she reasonably needs. Any excess over this limit should be 'given back' to the society.

Three Jewels or Triratna i.e.

1. Right Faith (Samyakdarshana)
2. Right Knowledge (Samyakjnana)
3. Right Action (Samyakcharita)

Concept of kalchakras in Jainism (wheel of time):

1. Avsarpini → when morality will decline in society
2. Utsarpini → when morality will start increasing.

Types of existence in Jainism:

Jaina doctrine recognizes four main forms of existence—

1. gods (deva),
 2. humans (manushya),
 3. hell beings (naraki), and
 4. animals and plants (tiryancha).
- The animal and plant category is further sub-divided into smaller sub-categories on the basis of their sense faculties.
 - The lowest of these are the nigodas, tiny organisms that only have one sense, that of touch.
 - According to Jainism even inanimate things have soul.

Q.6 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

1) Bhaja caves:

- Bhaja caves complex is a **Buddhist cave complex** located in Pune, Maharashtra. These caves date back to the 2nd **century BC**.
- It is situated on an important ancient trade route connecting the Arabian Sea to the Deccan plateau.
- The chaitya at Bhaja is similar to the Great Chaitya at Karla in its design and layout. It has various stupas both inside and outside the caves.
- An interesting thing to note is that some of the carvings show a woman playing tabla and another giving a dance performance, highlighting the presence of **Tabla** (a musical instrument) in Ancient India.
- Interestingly, the caves also house the figures of **Surya and Indra** at the entrance.

2) Sittanvansal Caves:

- Location: TN.
- Patronized by Pandyan rulers.
- Dedicated to Jainism.
- Features:
- Painting on the walls as well over the ceilings.
- Most common object is Pond with lotuses.
- The scene from Samav Saran is depicted. (Samav Saran is the audience hall in Jain religion where Jain rishis deliver sermon to their followers)

Besnagar:

- Also called Bhilsa, Vidisha.
- A **Greek ambassador, Heliodorus**, erected a **pillar in honor of Vishnu (Garuda Stambha) in 2nd century BCE**—earliest evidence of **Bhagavata (Vaishnava) tradition**.
- **Located near the confluence of the Betwa & Bes rivers**, it was an **important trading hub** on ancient trade routes.
- **One of the earliest Vaishnavite sites in India**, marking the spread of Bhagavata tradition.

Historical Significance of Udayagiri Caves

Feature	Details
Patronage	Built under Chandragupta II (c. 4th–5th century CE) of the Gupta dynasty.
Hindu & Jain Influence	Majority of caves are Shaivite & Vaishnavite , with some Jain caves .
Earliest Gupta Art	The caves contain some of the oldest surviving Gupta-period Hindu sculptures .
Inscriptions	Gupta-era inscriptions, including references to Chandragupta II and his minister Virasena .
Archaeological Importance	The caves show a transition from rock-cut architecture to structural temples .
features	Boar avatar of Vishnu, Mukhlinga, iconography of Jain tirthankars

UPSC PYQ 2022

Q.1 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) Only two pairs

Notes:

- **Āryadeva (3rd century)**, was a **Mahayana Buddhist monk**, a **disciple of Nagarjuna** and a Madhyamaka philosopher, is a central figure in the development of early Indian Madhyamaka philosophy.
- **Dignaga was the early 6th century Indian Buddhist Monk** and was also the founder of Indian logic, **Hetu Vidya**. He was born in Simhavakta near Kanchipuram.
- **Sri Ranganathamuni, popularly known as Sriman Nathamuni, was a Vaishnava theologian who collected and compiled the Nalayira Divya Prabandham.** Considered the first of Sri Vaishnava āchāryās, Nathamuni is also the **author of Yogarahasya, and Nyāyatattva.**

Buddhist Scholars:

Dignaga (480 AD-540 AD):

- Dignaga's work laid the groundwork for the development of deductive logic in India and created the **first system of Buddhist logic and epistemology.**
- **His Philosophy:**
 - **Pratyaksha** (awareness to acquire information)
 - **Anumana** (type of cognition to be aware of general attributes)
 - **Apohavada and language:** (interpretation of conventional and symbolic signs to be conventional instances of inference)
- **His works:**
 - **Pramana-samuccaya** (perception, language and inference)
 - **Abhidharmakosa-marma-Pradip** (Abhidharmakosa's Summary).
 - **Nyaya-mukha:** (Introduction to logic)
 - A summary of the **Mahayana Astasahasrika-prajnaparamita sutra**

Dharmakirti:

- Dharmakirti is associated with the Yogacara and **Sautrantika** schools.
- He was one of the primary theorists of **Buddhist atomism.**
- **His philosophy:**

- **Epistemology:** (instruments of knowledge, i.e., perception and inference)
- **Metaphysics:** (real is only the momentarily existing particulars, and any universal is unreal and a fiction)
- **His works** include Sambandhaparikshavrtti, Pramanaviniscaya, Pramavarttika - karaka.

Chandrakirti (600 CE-650 CE):

- Chandrakirti was a Buddhist scholar of **Madhyamaka school**.
- **His philosophy:**
 - Two truths
 - The nature of conventional truth
 - Prasanga and reasoning
 - Buddhahood
- **His works** include Mulamadhyamaka-vrtti-prasannapada, Madhyamakavatara, Yuktisasthika-vrtti.

Q.2 Consider the following pairs:

Site of Ashoka's major rock edicts	Location in the State of
1. Dhauli	Odisha
2. Erragudi	Andhra Pradesh
3. Jaugada	Madhya Pradesh
4. Kalsi	Karnataka

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Important inscription of Ancient India

#1. Pre-Ashokan:

1) Sohgaura copper plate inscriptions:

- Located in **Gorakhpur (UP)**
- The Sohgaura copper plate, the earliest known copper plate, is a Mauryan record that mentions **famine relief efforts**.
- Belong to Mauryan period but before Ashoka.
- It is one of India's few **pre-Ashoka Brahmi inscriptions**.

#2. Ashokan Period:

1) Rummindei Pillar Edicts (Lumbini)

- mention Ashoka's visit to **Lumbini (Rummindei)**, Rupandehi district, Nepal, Lord Buddha's birthplace.
- Ashoka **exempted Lumbini from paying taxes** and set its grain contribution at one-eighth.
- **Brahmi** script is used to write the inscriptions.

2) Kalsi Inscription

- Kalsi is well-known for its historical significance. It is a small town on the banks of the **Yamuna** River located between Chakrata and Dehradun.
- The site of Ashoka's inscriptions at Kalsi is unique in that it is the only place in North India where the great Mauryan emperor inscribed the **entire set of fourteen rock edicts**.
- The language and script of these edicts are **Prakrit and Brahmi**, respectively.
- It also reflects policies promoting **nonviolence and the limitation of war**.
- The inscription also describes his life before he chose the spiritual path.

3) Maski Inscription

- Maski is a village and archaeological site in **Karnataka's** Raichur district. It is located on the banks of the Maski River, a tributary of the Tungabhadra.
- It was Emperor Ashoka's first edict that included the name **Ashoka rather than 'Devanampriya' or 'Piyadassi.'**

4) Kalinga Edicts:

- written in Magadhi Prakrita with an early Brahmi script.
- In this inscription he talks about virtue of peace and non-violence.

5) Shahbazgarhi:

- Shahbazgarhi in Pakistan is known for rock edicts of the Mauryan emperor Ashoka

Major Rock Edicts of Ashoka	Location/Place
Kandahar	Afghanistan
Yerragudi	Andhra Pradesh.
Girnar	Gujrat
Dhuli	Odisha
Jaugada	Odisha
Khalsi	Uttarakhand
Sopara	Maharashtra
Shahbazgarhi	Pakistan
Mansehra	Pakistan
Sannati	Karnataka

#3. Post-Ashokan

1) Hathigumpha Inscription (2nd century BC)

- Located in Orissa.
- King Kharavela inscribed the Hathigumpha Inscription, also known as the Elephant Cave Inscription, from the Udayagiri-Khandagiri Caves in Odisha during the second century BCE.
- The main source of information about Kalinga ruler **Kharavela is the Hathigumpha Inscription at Udayagiri Caves**.
- The Hathigumpha Inscription tells the story of Kharavela as a king, conqueror, patron of culture, and **Jainism** champion.
- only inscription in India that gives year-by-year descriptions of a ruler's accomplishments.

2) Besnagar/ Vidisha Inscription

- Located at the ancient site of Vidisha in present Madhya Pradesh state.

- This pillar inscription was constructed by Heliodorus, the Greek ambassador and belongs to Sunga period (2nd century BC).
- Written in Prakrit language (with a few Sanskrit spelling) and Brahmi script.
- This pillar inscription is devoted to lord Vasudev.
- Remains of large temple of the late Paramara period known as Bijamamandal found here.

3) Junagadh/ Girnar rock inscription

- Rudradaman's Junagadh rock inscription, also known as Rudradaman's Girnar rock inscription.
- The inscription was written about the year 150 CE. The Junagadh inscription has inscriptions of Ashoka (one of fourteen Major Rock Edicts of Ashoka), Rudradaman I, and Skandagupta.
- It talks about renovation of Sudarshan lake by Rudradaman.
- It provides insight into water management in ancient India.
- It is written in Sanskrit which is first inscription written in long Sanskrit.

#4. Satvahana Period (1st Century BC-3rd century AD.)

1) Nasik Inscription

- Gutamiputra Satkarni's achievements were recounted in the Nasik Inscription, which was written by his mother Gautami Balasri.
- Gautamiputra is described as the ruler in the Nasik Prasasti.
- Gautamiputra fought Saka King Nahapana and regained his dynasty's reputation, according to the story.

2) Nanaghat Inscription

- The principal sources for specific information on the Satavahana kingdom are the Nasik and Nanaghat inscriptions.
- Gautami Balasri carved the Nasik inscription, while Naganika carved the Nanaghat inscription.

3) Kanganhalli or Sanatti Inscription:

- Belong to 1st century BC.
- Satvahana Period.
- Located in Karnataka near Bhima River.
- Contains portraits of King Ashoka and Satvahana rulers like Simuka and Pulumavi.
- Inspired from Amravati school of art.
- mention the real name of Ashoka and do not refer him with titles like Devnampriya Piyadassi.
- It mention the name of Ashoka as Ranyo Ashoka (King Ashoka)
- Written in Brahmi script.
- It is the only place where Ashokan portrait can be found.

#5. Gupta period (400-600 AD)

1) Mehrauli Inscription:

- This pillar was built in honor of Lord Vishnu by Chandragupta-II of the Gupta dynasty as Vishnupada.
- Also called Garuda pillar as a sculpture of Garuda was installed on its top.
- Originally located on a hill near the Beas River and was transported to Delhi by a Delhi king. It is now located in Delhi in the Qutub Minar complex.
- It is notable for the rust-resistant metals used in its construction.

- It talks about victory of Chandragupta against VAkataka rulers.

2) Allahabad Pillar Inscription (Prayag Prasasti) (335–375 AD) :

- Prashasti is a eulogy that means "in praise of someone."
- The Allahabad Prasasti was first inscribed on the Ashokan Pillar in Kausambhi, near **Allahabad**.
- It was later relocated to the Allahabad fort.
- It is an Ashokan Stambh, but it has four different inscriptions,
- The standard **Ashokan** inscriptions in Brahmi script are found on all pillars.
- The Queen's edict lauding Ashoka's wife **Kaurwaki's** charitable deeds.
- Inscriptions of **Samudragupta** written by **Harisena** in Sanskrit and Brahmi script. It discusses Samudragupta's conquests and the boundaries of the Gupta Empire.
- **Jahangir's** Persian inscriptions.

#6. Post-Gupta period

1) Aihole Inscriptions (610 AD)

- Aihole in Karnataka was the Chalukyas' first capital.
- Written in Sanskrit using Kanadda script.
- Was written by court poet of Pulkesin II name Ravikirti.
- Talks about defeat of Harshvardhan of Vardhan dynasty by Pulkesin II of Chalukya dynasty. It also mentions the capital's relocation from Aihole to Badami.

Q.3 Which one of the following statements about Sangam literature in ancient South India is correct?

- (a) Sangam poems are devoid of any reference to material culture.
- (b) The social classification of Varna was known to Sangam poets.
- (c) Sangam poems have no reference to warrior ethic.
- (d) Sangam literature refers to magical forces as irrational.

Answer: (b) The social classification of Varna was known to Sangam poets.

Sangam age:

Important facts related to Sangam age:

- four castes namely **arasar**(Ruling Class), anthanar, **vanigar**(carried on trade and commerce) and **vellalar**(Agriculturists), Kadaiyiar (lowest class of society worked as farm labourers), Pariyars (farm labourers also dealing with animal skin)
- **Uzhavar** were **ordinary ploughmen** of the Sangam Age in ancient Southern India. They did not own land, but worked on farms of others.
- Slavery was known and practised in the Sangam society. **Adimai** were **slaves** in ancient Sangam society.
- **Vellalar** were **large landowning farmers** of ancient Sangam society. They wielded considerable social and political influence.
- **Sati** was prevalent in upper strata of society called 'Tippayadal'
- There were women poets like **Avvaiyar, Nachchellaiyar, and Kakkaipadiniyar**.

- External trade was carried between **South India and the Greek and Roman kingdoms** which has been mentioned in a book called ‘**periplus of erythrean sea**’ (**erythrean sea= Red sea**)
- Important ports were→ Bhrigukaccha (Gj), Muziri (Kerla), Puhar (TN), Arikmedu (TN) and Tamrilipti (WB).
- The emotions that were portrayed in Sangam poetry were expressed through physical geography (1) Palai (The Waste land): Signifying a lovers frustrating journey through the deserted landscape (2) Mullai (The Forest) : Signifying happiness through physical and emotional union (3) Marutam (The Low land): Signifying a lover’s unfaithful attitude.
- The **Hero Stone or Nadu Kal or Virarkal** worship was significant in the Sangam period and was erected in memory of the bravery shown by the **warrior in battle**.
- The primary deity of the Sangam period was Seyon or **Murugan**, who is hailed as Tamil God.
- **singing bards called Panar and Viraliyar**. They were experts in folk songs and folk dances.
- Senguttuvan (Chera King) introduced the **Pattini cult (wife worship cult)** or the worship of **Kannagi** as the **ideal wife** in Tamil Nadu.
- The **village was the fundamental unit of administration** which was administered by local assemblies called **Manrams**.
- In Ashokan inscription names of sangam kingdom has been mentioned as **Cholas, Kerlaputra (Cheras), Pandyas and Satyaputra**.
- Tolkappiyam refers to the **five- fold division of lands**,
 1. Kurinji (hilly tracks)
 2. Mullai (pastoral)
 3. Marudam (agricultural)
 4. Neydal (coastal) and
 5. Palai (desert)
- The **people living in these five divisions had their respective chief occupations as well as gods for worship**.
- **Kurinji** – chief deity was Murugan – chief occupation, hunting and honey collection.
- **Mullai** – chief deity Mayon (Vishnu) – chief occupation, cattle-rearing and dealing with dairy products.
- **Marudam** – chief deity Indira – chief occupation, agriculture.
- **Neydal** – chief deity Varunan – chief occupation fishing and salt manufacturing.
- **Palai** – chief deity Korravai – chief occupation robbery.
- **Aṇaṅku is a phenomenon of sacred power described in ancient Tamil literature** such as the Sangam literature. **This sacred magical forces were supposed to inhabit various objects, which eventually determined there association with the society**.
- The **class of warriors was an important element in society during the Sangam age**. Captains of the army were invested with the title of ‘**enadi**’ at a formal ceremony. Civil and military officers were

held under both the Cholas and the Pandyas by vellalas or rich peasants. The **ruling class was called arasar and its members had marriage relations with the vellalas.**

Literature of Sangam age:

Literature of Sangam can be divided into three broad categories:

1. Religious. 2. Love and bravery. 3. Secular.

On the basis of theme Sangam literature can be classied as:

- a) **Akam** which deals with love and romance i.e., internal emotions of an individual.
- b) **Puram** which deals with external matters of an individual i.e., Bravery, Heroism etc.
 - 1) **Silappadikaram** – written by Ilango Adigal inspired from Jain philosophy. It is about love affair of Kovalan, Kanaggi and Madhavi. Later, a Kannagi Cult developed in South India.
 - 2) **Manimekhalai** – Written by Sittalai Sattanar inspired from Buddhist philosophy. continues the story of Silappadikaram in next generation in which Manimekhalai is the daughter of Madhavi and Kovalan.
 - 3) **Tolkappiyam** – written by Tolkappiyar was product of 2nd Sangam and it is basically a work on Tamil grammar & poetics.
 - 4) **Tirrukural** – Deals with philosophy and was written by Tiruvallur.
 - 5) **Agattiyam written by Aggatiyar one of the early books on Tamil grammar**
 - 6) **Cilappatikaram/Silappathigaram is one among the five Great Epics of the Sangam Period.** Others are - Manimekalai, Cīvaka Cintāmaṇi, Valayapathi, and Kuṇṭalakēci.
 - 7) Pattinappalai is a Tamil poem in the ancient Sangam literature.
 - 8) The Eight Anthologies, known as Eṭṭuttokai or “Eight Collections” in the literature, is a classical Tamil poetic work of Sangam Literature.

Social classification of Sangam society:

Arasar → priestly class; Vellalar → big landlords; Kadaiyiar/Uzavar → landless farmers; Periyar → Animal Skin tanners; Adimai → Slaves.

Religious worship: Hero stone worship called Virar kal or Nadu Kal + also worshipped Murugan (Kartikeya/ Kumar).

Cheras:

- Ruled in **TN and Kerala** region.
- Also called **Keralaputra**.
- The emblem of Cheras was “**bow and arrow**”. The Cheras owed its importance to trade with the **Romans**. They also built a temple of **Augustus** there.
- The greatest ruler of Cheras was **Senguttuvan**, the **Red Chera or the Good Chera**, who belonged to the 2nd century A.D.
- Senguttuvan introduced the **Pattini cult** or the worship of **Kannagi** as the **ideal wife** in Tamil Nadu.

- He was the first to send an **embassy to China** from South India.
- Muziri was important port town for trade with Romans and Greek who also built temple of Augustus in Chera kingdom.
- Karur/Vanji was the capital.

Cholas:

- Their core area of rule was the Kaveri delta, later known as **Cholamandalam**. (coromandel name is derived from Cholmandalam)
- Capital was **Uraiur and later shifted to Puhar or Kaveripattnam**.
- State emblem: **Tiger**.
- Cholas are also known for their **naval prowess**.
- King **Karaikal** was famous Chola ruler who built ancient **Kalnai** dam over river Kaveri.
- In **Battle of Venni** where he defeated the confederacy of Cheras, Pandyas.
- In one of the sangam text it was mentioned of a ritual of committing martial suicide called **Vattukirutal** when a king gets defeated in the battle field.
- He founded the port city of **Puhar**.
- Puhar was also known as **Kaveripattanam**.
- **Major Rock Edict II Asoka** mentions of the three kingdoms – **Pandyas, Cholas and Cheras (Kerlaputra)** as neighbours.



Pandyas

- The Pandyas capital **Madurai**.
- Their emblem was the “**Fish**”.
- They **patronized the Tamil Sangams** and facilitated the compilation of the Sangam poems.
- Major port for external trade was **Korkai**.
- They followed **orthodox Hinduism** and patronized Brahmins Priests.

Gender status in Sangam society:

- Women enjoyed considerable freedom like to study and choose life partner.
- **Sati** was prevalent in upper strata of society called ‘Tippayadal’
- Widow remarriage was **prohibited**.
- There were women poets like **Avvaiyar, Nachchellaiyar, and Kakkaipadiniyar**

Economy of Sangam age:

- Spinning and weaving of **cotton and silk clothes** attained a high quality.
- There was a great demand in the western world for the cotton clothes woven at **Uraiyur**.
- The **Greeks were the first to enter into trade contacts with the Tamil region** in about Third century B.C.
- After the Greeks, the Romans began to arrive in the Tamil country. **The Pandyan kingdom was the first to get the benefit of the Roman trade.** They had also served in the Pandyan army.
- External trade was carried between **South India and the Greek and Roman kingdoms** which has been mentioned in a book called 'periplus of erythrean sea'
- Roman writer name **Pliny** in his book Natural History, mention about **drain of gold and silver** from Roman and Greek civilization to India due to trade imbalance in favor of India.
- Important ports were → Bhrigukaccha (Gj), Muziri (Kerla), Puhar (TN), Arikmedu (TN) and Tamrilipti (WB).
- **Plenty of gold and silver coins issued by the Roman Emperors like Augustus, Tiberius and Nero** were found in all parts of Tamil Nadu which reveals the extent of the trade and the presence of Roman traders in the Tamil country.
- The main exports of the Sangam age were cotton fabrics, spices like pepper, ginger, cardamom, cinnamon and turmeric, ivory products, pearls and precious stones. **Gold, horses and sweet wine were the chief imports.**



Q.4 "Yogavasistha" was translated into Persian by Nizamuddin Panipati during the reign of:

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Humayun
- (c) Shahjahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

Answer: (a) Akbar

Persian Translations of Hindu Texts Under Mughal Patronage

Original Hindu Text	Persian Translation	Patronage/Period
Mahabharata	Razmnama	Akbar
Ramayana	Persian Ramayana	Akbar
Atharvaveda	Sirr-e-Akbar (The Great Secret)	Dara Shikoh
Upanishads	Sirr-e-Akbar	Dara Shikoh
Bhagavata Purana	Persian Translation	Dara Shikoh

Q.5 The world's second tallest statue in sitting pose of Ramanuja was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India at Hyderabad recently. Which one of the following statements correctly represents the teachings of Ramanuja?

- (a) The best means of salvation was devotion.
- (b) Vedas are eternal, self-existent and wholly authoritative.
- (c) Logical arguments were essential means for the highest bliss
- (d) Salvation was to be obtained through meditation.

Important dwait-Adwait philosophers:

Shankaracharya	Ramanujacharya	vallabhacharya
Gyan marg → moksha	Bhakti → Moksha	Bhakti → Moksha
Nirguna	Shaguna	shaguna
World = illusion	World+ God= real	World+ God= real

Adi Shankaracharya:

- Kerla in 788 AD.
- Advaita school
- Worshipper of Shiva in nirgun form.

Contribution:

- Revival of Hindusim.
- World= illusion; Brahma only realty.
- Critical of Buddhist Anatmavad philosophy.
- Knowledge → salvation.
- Established 4 mathas.
- Sanyasi cult like Buddhist sanga.
- Wrote commentaries on Bhagwat Geeta, Upnishads and Brhama sutra.
- Removed contradiction from Upnishdic ideas.
- Started Smartism sect based upon Puranas (Shiva, Vishnu, Shakti, Ganesha and Sun)
- Restored the dasanami structure (Dashanami Sampradaya), in which monks were arranged under ten titles, and strengthened the sanyasa tradition.
- Famous commentaries (bhashyas) on **10 Upanishads**, the **Brahma Sutra**, and the **Gita**, as well as poetry compositions such as **Vivekachudamani**, **Maneesha Panchakam**, and **Saundaryalahiri**, are among them.
- Composed Bhaja Govinda in Benaras.

Ramanujacharya:

- TN in 1017 CE.
- Vaishnav saint (shaguna)
- Vishist advaita.
- Bhakti marg → Salvation.
- Both Brahma and World are real.
- Started Shri Vaishnavism.

- Lingyat sect was inspired from him.
- Sribhashya, Vedanta Dipa, Gita Bhasya, and Vedantasara are some of his works.
- Recently, Statue of Equality, a statue of Ramanujacharya, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, Telangana.
- Ramanuja was an advocate of social equality among all sections of people centuries ago, and encouraged temples to open their doors to everyone irrespective of caste or position in society.
- Promoted vasudhaiva kutumbakam.

Madhavacharya:

- **1238 CE in KA.**
- **Dualism → Brahma = Swatantra; individual = Paratantra and this difference is tattvawad.**
- **Universe and God are different.**
- **Universe is inferior to God**
- **Critique of Shakaracharya and MADhvacharya.**
- **Bhakti → Salvation.**
- **World is not illusion.**
- **Started Haridas sect leading to foundation of Dasa movement.**
- established the **Krishna Mutt** in Udupi
- **Started Brahma sampradaya → worship of Vishnu.**
- **ISKCON is based upon Brahma sampradaya.**

Vallabhacharya:

- **15th CE in Chattisgad.**
- **also known as 'Achinitabhadra'**
- **Started Krishna sect called Pushtimarg.**
- **He spread Krishna bhakti around Braj region**
- **Shuddhaadvaita.**
- **Refereed Krishna with the name 'Nathji'**
- **Founded Krishna temple in Nathdwara (RJ).**
- **contemporary of Sri Krishnadeva Raya of the Vijayanagara empire.**
- **Contemporary of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.**
- Surdas was also one of the disciples of Vallabhacharya.
- Vallabhacharya authored the Shodasha Granthas, a collection of 16 poem pieces, to aid followers on their road of devotion.

Nimbarka:

- disciple of Ramanujacharya
- first to introduce **Radhamadhav cult** which was centered on the worship of Radha and Madhav
- **Dwita Advaita.** It was centered on the balance between **Advaita and Visishtadvaita.**

- wrote **Dashaslōki**.
- **Founded Nimandi/nimavat sect of Krishna**.
- **Founded sanak sampradaya**.

Q.6 The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the new Circuit House near Somnath Temple at Veraval. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Somnath Temple?

1. Somnath Temple is one of the Jyotirlinga shrines.
2. A description of Somnath Temple was given by Al-Biruni.
3. Pran Pratishtha of Somnath Temple (installation of the present day temple) was done by President S. Radhakrishnan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

- On the frontier of India, there existed **the Hindu shahi kingdom** which extended from the Punjab to Kabul. Its capital was **Waihind**.
- **Jayapala** and his son **Anandapala** were the prominent rulers of Hindushahi kingdom.
- Kashmir was an independent state ruled over by the **Lohara** dynasty and it had family relations with the Hindushahis.
- Kannauj was ruled over by Rajyapala, the **Gurjara Pratihara** king.
- There were independent kingdoms in Bengal (**Pala** dynasty), Gujarat (**Solanki** dynasty), Malwa (**Paramara** dynasty) and Bundhelkhand (**Chandella** dynasty)
- In the south **the later Chalukyas** and **Cholas** have their powerful kingdoms.
- In 1018 Mahmud plundered the holy city of **Mathura** and also attacked **Kannauj**.
- In 1025 he attacked on **Somanath**, the famous holy town on the coast of Kathiawar.

Al-beruni

- Came to India with Mahmud of Ghajni.
- Wrote Kitab-ul Hind (Arabic)
- He liked the Indian culture and learnt Sanskrit, Indian philosophy and Socio-Economic condition of this land.
- He was particularly impressed by the Upanishads and the Bhagavad-Gita.

Q.7 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

- **Aryadeva (3rd century), was a Mahayana Buddhist monk, a disciple of Nagarjuna and a Madhyamaka philosopher, is a central figure in the development of early Indian Madhyamaka philosophy.**
- **Dignaga was the early 6th century Indian Buddhist Monk and was also the founder of Indian logic, Hetu Vidya.**
- **Sri Ranganathamuni, popularly known as Sriman Nathamuni, was a Vaishnava theologian who collected and compiled the Malayira Divya Prabandham. Considered the first of Sri Vaishnava āchāryās, Nathamuni is also the author of Yogarahasya, and Nyāyatattva.**

Q.8 According to Kautilya's Arthashastra, which of the following are correct?

1. A person could be a slave as a result of a judicial punishment.
2. If a female slave bore her master a son, she was legally free.
3. If a son born to a female slave was fathered by her master, the son was entitled to the legal status of the master's son.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Chanakya

- **Teacher of Chandragupta Maurya, who was also his Chief Minister.**
- He was a teacher and scholar at Taxila.
- Other names are **Vishnugupta and Kautilya.**
- He was also a minister in the court of Bindusara.
- He is credited to be the **master strategist** behind the usurping of the Nanda throne and the rise of the Mauryan Empire through his student, Chandragupta.
- He wrote **Arthashastra** which is a treatise on **statecraft, economics, and military strategy.**
- Arthashastra was **rediscovered by R Shamasastri in 1905** after it had disappeared in the 12th century.
- Chanakya is also called '**Indian Machiavelli**' because of his realism.
- **He gave mandal theory 'Mandal =circles'**
- **He gave concept of Mandal theory.**
- Kautilya has put forward the concept of **Saptanga Rajya** to understand the State – a system of seven inter- related and interlacing constituent limbs or elements (Angas or Prakritis). The Arthashastra is the first South

Asian text which offers a theory of the State as being composed of seven constituent elements. These seven elements were, in the order below:

1. Svami (the king)
2. Amatya (ministers)
3. Janapada (the territory and its people, i.e., subjects)
4. Durga (a fortified capital)
5. Kosha (the treasury)
6. Danda (justice or force)
7. Mitra (ally)

UPSC PYQ 2021

Q.1 Which one of the following ancient towns is well-known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelizing water into connected reservoirs?

- (a) Dholavira
- (b) Kalibangan
- (c) Rakhigarhi
- (d) Ropar

Important sites of IVC:**1. Harappa: (River Ravi, Pak)**

- Located in Punjab of Pakistan.
- First site to be excavated and because of which IVC is also called Harappan Civilization.
- Bronze sculpture of a dog chasing a deer.
- Red sandstone male torso
- Sculpture of mother goddess.
- Only place of Coffin burials

2. Mohenjodaro (Mound of Dead) (river Indus, Pak)

- Situated on the Bank of river Indus in Pakistan.
- the largest city of the Indus valley civilization.

Important findings:

- Great bath
- Granary
- Bronze dancing girl
- Seal of Pasupathi Mahadeva
- Terracotta image of mother goddess.
- Steatite statue of beard man
- A piece of woven cotton cloth
- 3 cylindrical-shaped seals similar to Mesopotamian ones.
- Evidences of boats

3. Sutkagendor (Dast river, Pak)

- A trade point between Harappa and Babylon.
- westernmost site of the Indus Valley Civilization

4. Chanhudaro (Indus, Pak):

- On Banks of river Indus In sindh province of Pakistan.
- Famous for bead and bangle making.
- Footprint of a dog chasing a cat is also found here.
- only Indus city which does not have any citadel in it.

5. Amri: On the banks of river Indus in Pakistan.

6. Kalibangan: (Ghaggar river, Rj)

- Did not have drainage system
- Items like: Fire altar, Camel bones, Wooden plough
- The archaeologists claim that the ploughed fields of Kalibangan are the world's first ploughed fields.
- Was not a planned settlement

7. Lothal: (Bhagova and Sabarmati rivers, GJ)

- Located in Gujarat at Gulf of Khambat.
- Manmade port.
- Dockyard.
- is called Manchester of the IVC.
- Fire altars are found here.
- A game like Chess has been found here.
- Evidences of rice husk.
- Mesopotamian seal
- Terracotta model of Ship
- Jar depicting story of Cunning fox in Panchtantra.
- A toy model of Horse.
- double burial of man and woman

8. Surkotada (Sabarmati, GJ)

- Located in Gujarat Kutch district of Gujarat on the banks of the Shadi Kaur river.
- Beads and Horse bones are found here.
- only Harappan site where the actual remains of horse bones were found.

9. Banawali (Rangoi River, Haryana)

- Located in Haryana.
- Evidence of both pre-Harappan and Harappan culture are found here.
- Oval shaped settlement
- The only city with radial streets
- Terracotta toy plough

10. Dholavira (Luni, RJ)

- Located in Gujarat in Rann of Kachchh.
- Since this site is located in Arid regions of Gujarat, Water reservoir and harvesting structure are found here.
- Recently Dholavira is declared as World Heritage Site.

11. Rakhigarhi (Ghaggar, HR)

- located in the Hisar district of Haryana.
- Rakhigarhi as one of the oldest as well as the largest site of the Indus Valley Civilization in India.
- Double burial of man and woman.

12. Ganweriwala (Punjab, Pakistan)

- near the **Ghaggar-Hakra River (Sarasvati River)**.
- one of the **largest Indus cities**, alongside Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro, Rakhigarhi, and Dholavira.
- Unlike other major IVC sites, **Ganweriwala remains largely unexcavated**.

13. Mitathal (HR)

- The site is divided into a **citadel and a lower town**, a typical feature of Indus cities.
- Fortification with **mudbrick walls**, suggesting defensive structures.
- Situated near the **Ghaggar-Hakra River**.
- Shows evidence of both **Early Harappan (Pre-2600 BCE)** and **Mature Harappan (2600–1900 BCE)** phases.

14. Nageshwar (Gj)

- known for its shell-working industry and coastal trade links.
- Located in Jamnagar district, Gujarat, near the Gulf of Kutch.
- One of the few **coastal Harappan sites**.

Costal sites of IVC:

Lothal + Bhagatrav + Nageshwar + Balakot + Sutkagan Dor + Dholavira.

Q.2 From the decline of Guptas until the rise of Harshavardhana in the early seventh century, which of the following kingdoms were holding power in Northern India?

1. The Guptas of Magadha
2. **The Paramaras of Malwa**
3. The Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
4. The Maukharis of Kanauj
5. **The Yadavas of Devagiri**
6. The Maitrakas of Valabhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 3, 4 and 6 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 5 and 6 only

Answer: (b) 1, 3, 4 and 6 only

Some important dynasties:

Parmara dynasty:

1. Founder: Upendra.
2. The Paramaras of Malwa rose on the ruins of the Pratihara empire of Kanauj.
3. successors of the Rashtrakutas.
4. Capital: Ujjain → Dhar.
5. Patronized Shaivism and Jainism.

6. **Raja Bhoj** was greatest in this dynasty (1018-1060); constructed **Bhojpur lake** in Bhopal and wrote books like His famous books were:
1) Ayurveda Sangraha 2) Yukti Kalpataru 3) Samranga Suthradhara (deals with architecture).

Kadamb dynasty (345 CE to 540 CE):

- The Kadambas were an ancient royal family in Karnataka, India, whose reign extended from around 345 CE to 540 CE.
- They established their dominance in northern Karnataka and the Konkan region with Banavasi as their capital.
- Founded by a Brahmin name Mayurasharma around 345 CE.
- Became vassals of larger empires like the Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas for over 500 years, leading to the emergence of minor Kadamba dynasties in places like Goa, Halasi, and Hangal.

Kakatiya Dynasty (12th -14th CE)

- 1) **About Kakatiyas:** [1] South Indian dynasty [2] ruled deccan region during 12th -14th CE [3] capital was Orugallu (Warangal) [3] feudatories to Rashtrakutas and Western Chalukyas. [4] defeated by Allauddin khilji and Mohammad Bin Tughlaq [5] Marco Polo, who visited India in Rudramma devi court.
- 2) **Significance:** [1] patronized Sanskrit and Telegu [2] trikuta model in their temple constructions [3] constructed Pakhal lake in Warangal [4] 1000 pillar temple in Warangal [5] Ramappa temple [6] Koh-i-Noor Diamond was mined [7] constructed Golconda fort of Hyderabad [8] Motupalli as important sea port.

Hoysala dynasty (1000-1350 CE):

- Hoysalas were feudatories of chalukyas of Kalyana.
- Rose to prominence by defeating Cholas.
- Dwarasamudra(Halebeedu) was their capital.
- Sala was the founder of this dynasty.
- He was succeeded by Vinayaditya and Balalla I.
- Vishnuvardhana(Bittideva) was greatest in Hoysala dynasty.
- He completely routed Cholas from Gangavadi in battle of Talakadu, for this he got the title Talkadugonda.
- In commemoration of this victory he built kirtinarayana temple at Talakadu and Chennakesavar temple at Beluru.

Contribution:

- patronized Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Jainism.
- Vishnuvardhan converted into Jainism and he was the follower of Ramanujacharya.
- Promoted Kannad language.

- combined Vesara and Dravida style and developed new Hoysala style.

Features of Hoysala style are: stellate/star shape platform + Bhumija style of Vimana + multiple vimana + use of soap stone + intricate carvings + open mandap + multiple shrines.

Examples of Hoysala temples are.

- Channakeshava temple at Beluru (Vishnu)
- Hoysaleswara temple at Halebidu (Shiva)
- Keshava temple Somnathpura (Vishnu)
- They constructed Jain Basadis also. Eg. Savathi Gandhavarana Basadi at Shravanabelagola.

#Garha Katanga dynasty (15th-18th CE):

- The Akbar Nama, a history of Akbar's reign, mentions the **Gond kingdom of Garha** Katanga that had 70,000 villages.
- It was a tribal kingdom of Gond tribe.
- Established by **Jadurai**.
- During Akbar period his military general name Asaf Khan launched attack against the Kingdom.
- **Rani Durgawati** (Chandel Rajput of Malwa married to Gond King Dalpat) who was acting as regent lost and young King Bir Narayan killed in battle of Damoh.
- Parts of the annexed Garha kingdom were returned to Chandra Shah, Rani Durgawati's brother-in-law, by Akbar in 1567, who saw little gain from retaining the kingdom.
- Later subjugated by stronger Bundelas and Marathas.
- Kingdom division: Kingdom → Garh → Chaurasi (84 villages) → Barhots (12 Villages)

The Yadavas of Devagiri (12th -13th CE)

- Feudatories of Western Chalukyas.
- Also called Seona dynasty derived from Seunachandra, the dynasty's second ruler.
- Capital was Devagiri.
- Founder of Marathi culture.
- Their dominion encompassed present-day Maharashtra, northern Karnataka, and parts of Madhya Pradesh.

Famous rulers are:

- 1) **Bhillama (1175-1191 CE):** real founder of Yadava dynasty + founder of Devagiri + defeated Hoysala king Ballala II + Referred to as "Chakravartin Yadava" in the Mutugi inscription from 1189-90 CE + patronized the scholar Bhaskara.

- 2) **Singhana II (1200-1246 AD):** He successfully defeated rivals such as the Hoysalas, Kakatiyas, Paramaras, and Chalukyas + Sarangadeva, the author of Sangita Ratnakar, served in Singhana II's court.

Decline: In 1308 AD, Malik Kafur an army general of Allauddin Khilji defeted Yadavas.

Important facts about Yadavas:

- **Mahanubhavas**, followers of Hindu god Krishna, emerged as a new religious sect.
- The Bhakti movement associated with Sri Vitthala or Panduranga gained prominence in the Deccan by the late 13th century.
- Bhaskaracharya, a renowned mathematician and astronomer, contributed significantly, with his notable works including Siddhanta Siromani (1150) and Karana kautuhala.
- Sarangadeva, composed the famous musical piece Sangitaratnakara.
- Hemadri, a prolific writer from the Yadava Dynasty, wrote extensively on Dharmasastra
- Mukundaraja's Vivekasindhu, the first existing book in Marathi, explains the Advaita school of thought.
- Jnanesvari stands out as the most significant piece of Marathi literature.
- Saint poets like Namadeva and Muktabai enriched Marathi literature with devotional songs.
- Built famous Gondeshwar Temple with a panchayatana design.

Gahadawalas:

- Also called The Rathors or Gahawars
- Period: (1090 – 1194 CE).
- The founder of this dynasty was Chandradeva. His kingdom included Banaras, Ayodhya and Kanauj.
- The last great ruler of this dynasty was Jaichandra well known in popular legend as Raja Jaichand (1170-1194).
- Jayachandra confronted the Ghurid invasion under the command of Qutb al-Din Aibak. In 1194 CE, he lost and died in the Battle of Chandawar. The Ghurids then sacked Varanasi. Here, they demolished many temples, according to modern Muslim historian Hasan Nizami.
- Prithviraj Raso presents an interesting fable. According to the legend, Jayachandra sided with the Ghurids to overthrow Prithviraj Chauhan. This was because Prithviraj had fled with his daughter Samyukta. These stories, yet, are not backed up by historical data.

The Maitrakas:

were **tributary chiefs of the Guptas**, who established an independent kingdom in western India. Dhruvasena II was the most important ruler of the Maitrakas. He was a contemporary of Harshavardhana and was married to his daughter.

Valabhi university:

- major **Hinayana** Buddhist study center between 600 and 1400 CE in Gujarat.
- built by **Bhattarka**, the Maitraka King.
- **Gunamati and Sthiramati**, two well-known Buddhist scholars.
- Visited by **Huan Tsang**.

The Maukharis :

ruled over **Kanauj**, a city in western Uttar Pradesh, which gradually replaced Pataliputra as a political center of north India. **Maukharies were also the subordinate rulers of the Guptas and used the title of samanta.** Harshavardhana's sister Rajyashri was married to Grihavarman.

Q.3 With reference to India, the terms 'Halbi, Ho and Kui' pertain to

- (a) Dance forms of Northwest India
- (b) Musical instruments
- (c) Pre-historic cave paintings
- (d) Tribal languages

Answer: (d) Tribal languages

Pre-Historic caves of India.

1) Bhimbetka caves:

- Located in MP near Vindhyan range.
- Period: Upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Chalcolithic.
- Discovered by an archaeologist name V.S Wakankar in 1958.
- UNESCO WHS.

Features:

- Colors were made using Minerals extracted from rocks.
- Minimalistic paintings where humans are represented in stick like form.
- Themes are secular such as day to day life events like hunting, women giving birth to a child, community dancing etc.
- Size of painting decreased from Paleolithic to Mesolithic period.
- Most of the paintings belongs to Mesolithic phase.
- Called Zoo caves as animals are the most common themes of these paintings.
- Super-imposition of paintings i.e. layer of one painting over the other made through successive generations of Humans.

2) Lakhudiar caves:

- In Uttarakhand on the banks of river Suyal.
- Lakhudiyar literally means one lakh caves.

Features:

- Place of pre-historic cave paintings.
- A long-snouted animal, a fox and a multiple legged lizard are the main animal motifs.
- Wavy lines, rectangle-filled geometric designs, and groups of dots can also be seen here.

#Pre-Mauryan caves:

1) Jogimara caves:

- Located in MP near Amarkantak Plateau which is the point of the origin of Narmada.
- Belong to 1000-300 BC. (Pre-Mahajanpad period)
- Non-religious inscriptions in Magadhi language written in Brahmi script.

2) Chittwa Dongri caves:

- Chattisgadh.
- Belong to 1000 BC.
- Famous for Chinese themes i.e. Dragon and a Chinese man riding Donkey.

Various folk instruments of India:

String Instruments (Tata Vadya)

Instrument	Region	Description
Ravanahatha	Rajasthan, Gujarat	A bowed string instrument , believed to be the oldest violin-like instrument , linked to Ravana.
Ektara	Bengal, Punjab, Odisha	A single-string instrument , used in Baul and Sufi music .
Pena	Manipur, Assam	A traditional single-stringed bowed lute , associated with Manipuri folk & Lai Haraoba dance .
Taus	Punjab	A peacock-shaped string instrument , used in Sikh devotional music .
Rabab	Jammu & Kashmir	A plucked string instrument , used in Sufi and Kashmiri folk music .

Wind Instruments (Sushir Vadya)

Instrument	Region	Description
Algoza	Punjab, Rajasthan	A double flute , used in Punjabi and Rajasthani folk music .
Pungi (Been)	North India	A snake charmer's flute , used in folk music and street performances .
Mashak	Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh	A bagpipe-like instrument , used in folk celebrations .
Titti	Kerala	A traditional wind instrument , played in folk and temple festivals .

Percussion Instruments (Avanaddha Vadya)

Instrument	Region	Description
Chenda	Kerala	A cylindrical drum , used in Kathakali and temple rituals .
Dafli / Daf	North India	A small frame drum , used in folk dances like Bihu, Bhajan singing .
Khol	Assam, Bengal	A two-sided drum , used in Vaishnavite devotional music .

Madal	Nepal, Sikkim, Darjeeling	A folk drum , played in Nepali folk music .
Nagada	Rajasthan, Gujarat	Large kettledrums , played in folk dances & temple music .
Tangmuri	Meghalaya	A drum and pipe combination , used by the Khasi tribes .

Dance forms of Northwest India

- Garba (Gujarat):
- Bhangra (Punjab)
- Dandiya (Gujarat).
- Tarpna Nach (GJ and RJ)
- Tera Tali (Rajasthan):
- Tippani dance (MH)
- Padhar dance (GJ)

Q.4 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.

Ajanta caves:

- Sahyadri ranges (Western Ghats) on Waghora river near Aurangabad in Maharashtra.
- Total 29 caves; 25 are Viharas and 4 are Chaityas.
- developed in the period between 200 B.C. to 650 A.D.
- UNESCO WHS.

Features:

- Mural made on wet plaster i.e. Frescoes.
- One of the striking features is the absence of blue colour in the paintings.
- Dedicated to Buddhism only. (Hinayana and Mahayana)
- Scenes from various Jatak stories are depicted.

Some famous paintings are:

1. Padmapani, Vajrapani and Manjushri.
2. dying princess.
3. Shibi Jataka story where A king name Shibi offered his own flesh to Vultures in order to save a pigeon.
4. Matri Poshak Jataka where a Man was saved by an Elephant.
5. Painting of King Janak (Father of Sita) with his wife.
6. Sansar chakra
7. Buddha visiting his wife and son in Palace.
8. Bhagwatprasuti painting where Mother of Buddha name Maya is seen giving birth to Buddha.
9. Mara vijay painting.

Important sculptures:

- Mara Vijay event.
- Buddha Mahaparinirvana.

Sanchi Stupa:

- Built by Ashoka and later gateways called **Torans** were added during Shunga rule.
- A lion capital has also been found at Sanchi, but is in a dilapidated condition.
- built with bricks.
- Sanchi near Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, is a **World Heritage Site**.
- **Belong to Hinayana Buddhism**.
- During Shunga period Shalabhanjika, Chhatri, Yashti, Harmika etc were added.
- Torans were added during Satvahana period as it has satvahana inscription.
- They contain erotic images of young women name shalabhanjikas (a Yakshini in Buddhism) – lady holding the branch of a tree and images of Manushi Buddha.
- Manushi Buddha total 7 Buddhas Vipasin, Sikhi, Vishwabhu, Krakkuchanda, Kanakmuni, Kasyapa and Shakyamuni
- Stories from the Jataka tales are carved here.
- Buddha is shown **symbolically as an empty throne, feet, chhatra, stupas etc**.
- **Torans** are constructed in all four directions.
- **Jataka** stories also became an important part of the narratives.
- There are guardian images on sculptors and **salabhanjika sculptures** are remarkable in their volume (salabhanjika are sculpture of ladies holding the branch of a tree/plate etc).
- 5 pillars called **Ashton** pillars represent 5 important events of Buddha's life.
- Total three Stupas: [1] relics of Buddha [2] relics of Arhats [3] relics of Buddha disciples Sariputta and Mahamogallana

Amravati Stupa:

- **Located in Andhra P.**
- It is believed to be built Satvahanas during 200 BC
- Amaravati has a **Mahachaitya** and had many sculptures.
- Like Sanchi stupa, Amaravati stupa also has **pradakshinapatha** enclosed within a **vedika** on which many narrative sculptures are depicted.
- The **torana** of the Amaravati stupa has disappeared over a period of time.
- It belonged to both Hinayana and Mahayana Buddhism.
- The **Dream of Queen Mayadevi** has also been depicted here.

Pandavleni Caves / Trirashmi Caves / Nasik Caves:

3rd century BC and the 2nd century AD in Maharastra + reflect the Hinayana sect of Buddhism + associated with Satavahana and Kshatarapa rulers + The Dada Saheb Phalke Smarak lies at the foot of the Pandavleni caves and showcases the work of Dadasaheb Phalke + Pundru, which means "yellow ochre tint" in Pali, was the name given to the caverns.

Q.5 With reference to Chausath Yogini Temple situated near Morena, consider the following statements:

1. It is a circular temple built during the reign of 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 was the inspiration behind the Indian Parliament building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Khajuraho group of Temples:

built by the Chandela + rulers between 900 CE to 1130 CE in MP + Dedicated to Hinduism and Jainism located in the Vindhya Mountain range + UNESCO WHS + important temples are Chausath Jogini Temple + Kandaria mahadev + Laxman temple + Parswanath Temple + Vamana temple + Brahma temple

Kachchhapaghata Dynasty

Feature	Details
Time Period	10th–12th Century CE
Region Ruled	Gwalior, Morena, Narwar (Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan)
Capital	Gwalior (most prominent), later Narwar
Political Affiliation	Feudatories of the Gurjara-Pratiharas , later allied with Chandellas and Paramaras
Notable Rulers	- Vijayapala (founder, c. 10th century CE) - Mahipal (strengthened the kingdom, 11th century CE) - Kirtiraja (expanded territories, 12th century CE)
Decline	Defeated by the Delhi Sultanate (early 13th century)

Famous Temples & Monuments:

- Sas-Bahu Temple (Gwalior Fort) – A masterpiece of Hindu temple architecture.
- Teli Ka Mandir (Gwalior) – An early Nagara-style temple built during their rule.
- Padavali Temples (Morena, MP) – Richly carved Shiva temples.
- Bateshwar Temple Complex (Morena, MP) – A group of 200+ Hindu temples built during the 10th–12th centuries.

Q.6 Consider the following pairs:

	Historical place	Well-known for
1.	Burzahom	Rock-cut shrines
2.	Chandraketugarh	Terracotta art
3.	Ganeshwar	Copper artefacts

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

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

important Neolithic sites in India:

Use of polished stone tools + use of pottery + settled agriculture.

Koldihwas (UP) earliest Rice cultivation + Mehargadh (Pakistan) earliest cotton cultivation + Burzhom (J&K) pit dwelling and master buried with his Dog + Gufrakal (J&K) pit dwelling and graveyard in the house + Chirand (Bihar) + Daojali Hading (Assam) + Mesolithic phase has not been found in Kashmir as people here migrated from outside.

Chalcolithic sites:

- Inamgaon → Maharastra + Jorwe culture + Twin urn burial + Proto Ganesha and God Visira images.
- Daimabad → bronze chariot.
- Ahar and Gyaneshwar cultures were contemporary to Harappan (supplied copper to Harappans) while Jorwe and Kayatha were post Harappan.

UPSC PYQ 2020

Q.1 With reference to the scholars/litterateurs of ancient India, consider the following statements:

1. Panini is associated with Pushyamitra
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

Panini:

- Sanskrit grammarian
- Pre-Mauryan period.
- His major work, **Astadhyayi**, consists of eight chapters detailing the rules of Sanskrit grammar.

Pushyamitra Shunga

- **Pushyamitra Shunga** on the other hand was the founder and first ruler of the **Shunga Empire** and ruled around **1st century BC**.
- Pushyamitra Shunga was Brahmin army chief of Brihadratha, the last king of the Mauryas.
- During a military parade, he killed Brihadratha and established himself on the throne in 185 or 186 BC.
 - According to some historians, this was an internal revolt against the last Mauryan king. Some say it was a Brahminical reaction to the Mauryan overwhelming patronage of Buddhism.
- Pushyamitra Shunga's capital was at **Pataliputra**.
- He successfully countered attacks from two Greek kings namely, Menander and Demetrius.
- He also thwarted an attack from the Kalinga king Kharavela.
- He conquered Vidarbha.
- During his reign, the **Stupas at Sanchi and Barhut were renovated**. He built the **sculptured stone gateway at Sanchi**.
- He performed Vedic sacrifices such as Ashvamedha, Rajasuya and Vajapeya.
- Pushyamitra Shunga patronised the Sanskrit grammarian **Patanjali**.
- According to the Puranas, his reign lasted for 36 years. He died in 151 BC.

Amarasimha:

- Amarasimha was a Sanskrit grammarian and poet, reputed to be one of the **“nine gems” in the court of CG Vikramaditya/CH II**
- His notable work, **Amara-Kosha**, is a vocabulary of Sanskrit roots divided into three books.

Kalidasa:

- Kalidasa is **often regarded as the greatest playwright and dramatist of ancient India**, known for works such as **Shakuntala and Malavika and Agnimitra**.

- Traditionally, he is believed to have been associated with **Chandra Gupta Vikramaditya (Chandra Gupta II)**, although the exact dates of his life remain disputed.

Chandragupta II

- Chandragupta II, also known by his title **Vikramaditya**, as well as Chandragupta Vikramaditya, was the third ruler of the Gupta Empire.
- Chandragupta II was the next great emperor of Gupta empire after his father Samudragupta. He came to be known by his title **Vikramaditya (Power of Sun)**.
- The most important event of Chandragupta II's reign was **conquest of Sakas**. He destroyed the Saka chieftain **Rudrasena III** and annexed his kingdom. Banabhatta's Harshacharita gives a reference to this event. According to Banabhatta, Rudrasena was killed while courting another man's wife by Chandragupta.
- His daughter **Prabhavati Gupta** was married to Vakataka king Rudrasena II.
- He issued **silver currency** in close imitation of that of the Sakas after the occupation of their territory.
- Chandragupta made **Ujjain his second capital**. Ujjain enjoyed pre-eminence as a religious & political centre.
- Chinese traveller **Fa Hien** had visited India during the time of Chandragupta II.
- **Mehrauli Iron Pillar** (established by Chandragupta as Vishnupada in the honour of Lord Vishnu) credits Chandragupta with spread of his fame to southern seas and attainment of Ekadhirajyam (United Kingdom) by prowess of his arms.
- Chandragupta II was known for his deep interest in art and culture and nine gems or Navratna adorned his court.
 - **Amarsimha** (Sanskrit lexicographer and a poet, Author of Amarkosha)
 - **Dhanvantri** (Physician & medicine)
 - **Harisena** (composed the Prayag Prasasti or Allahabad Pillar Inscription)
 - **Kalidasa (Most famous Sanskrit poet and playwright)**
 - **Kahapanaka** (astrologer)
 - **Sanku** (field of Architecture)
 - **Varahamihira** (astronomical systems, mathematician and sciences)
 - **Vararuchi** (grammarian and Sanskrit scholar)
 - **Vetalbhatta** (magician)

Harshvardhan:

- Reign: 606 A.D to 647 A.D.
- **Harshavardhana**, was an Indian emperor who ruled North India from 606 to 647 CE.
- There are three inscriptions which gives detail about his reign: **Madhuban Plate, Sonepat plate and the Banskhera inscription**
- member of the **Vardhana dynasty (Pushyabhuti dynasty)**.
- Chinese traveler **Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang)** visited the court of Harsha.
- Defeated Gauda ruler Shashnka.
- Shifted capital from Thanesar → **kannauj (Kanyakubja its old name)**.
- maintained cordial relations with the **Chinese**.

- Shavite → Hinayana Buddhism → Mahayana.
- wrote three plays in Sanskrit name **Nagananda, Ratnavali and Priyadarshika.**
- **Banbhata** : wrote **Harshacharita** (biography of Harsha) and **Kadambari.**
- defeat of Harshavardhana by the **Chalukya king Pulakesin II** in 637AD is mentioned on the **Aihole** inscription (Karnataka).

Q.2 With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. **Sthaviravadins** belong to Mahayana Buddhism.
2. **Lokottaravadin** sect was an offshoot of Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism.
3. The deification of Buddha by Mahasanghikas fostered Mahayana Buddhism.

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

Sects of Hinayana:

1. Theravada/sthavirvadin.
2. Sarvastvadin/vaibheshika
3. Sutravadin/sautantrika
4. **Ekavyaharikas.**
5. **Vibhajjavada**
6. **Sammitiya**

Sects of Mahayana:

1. Mahasanghika.
2. Lokottarvadin
3. Kukkutikas
4. Bahusrutiyas
5. Prajnapativadins
6. Madhyamika sutra
7. Yoga charya
8. Vajrayana
9. Caitika

Sub-sects of Hinayana

1. **Sarvastvadin/vaibheshika:** an Individual's past deeds, Dharma and cosmic principles decide his future and present life + traces its origin in Mahavibhasha shastra by Vasumitra.
2. **Vibhajjavada:** rejected Sarvastvadin philosophy of simultaneous existence of past, present and future.
3. **Sutravadin/Sautantrika:** followed Sutta Pitaka (actual words of Buddha) and rejected its interpretation such as Abhidhamma Pitaka.
4. **Sammitiya: an individual is made of 5 elements, however he is greater than sum total of these 5 elements. This philosophy was rejected by Buddhist philosophers as it accepted the concept of Soul (Atmavad). Its members were also known as Pudgalavādins ("Teachers of the Pudgala").**
5. **Ekavyaharikas:**
 - Sub sect of Hinayana/theravada

- one of the first Buddhist sects to emerge after the First Buddhist Council.
- later evolved into the Theravāda tradition.
- Unified interpretation of Buddhist teachings to avoid ambiguity and inconsistency.

Sub-sects of Mahayana

1) Mahasanghika sect:

- 1st sect of Buddhism.
- Born after 2nd Buddhist council after parting ways with Theravada/Stavirvadins
- Reason: difference over interpretation of Vinay Pitaka. Mahasanghika were in favor of more freedom to Buddhist monks living in Buddhist sangha such as more freedom to possess material possessions.
- It was first division in Buddhist sangha.
- The school was first located in the area of Vaiśālī and spread also to southern India, with centres at Amarāvātī and Nāgārjunakonda.
- Later, from Mahasanghika other sects such as Caitika, Kukuttika, Lokottarvadin, Mahayana and Vajryana were born.

2) Lokottaravadins:

- Subsect of Mahayana.
- Notable text is Mahavastu.
- Buddha's teachings (sutras) were beyond conventional understanding and originated from a transcendental realm.

3) Kukkutikas:

- Sub-sect of Mahayana.
- Also known as "the sect of the cock,"
- this was a small Buddhist sect that followed strict rules regarding the use of bowls and robes and avoided the use of certain materials like wool and hemp.

4) Bahusrutiyas:

- Sub sect of Mahayana.
- A group within Buddhism that emphasized learning and reciting numerous Buddhist scriptures.
- emphasis on the teachings of the Buddha, possibly interpreting them in various ways and placing importance on the diversity of teachings

5) Prajnativadins:

- Subsect of Mahayana
- A Buddhist school that focused on the development of wisdom (prajna) as a means to attain enlightenment.

6) Madhyamika Sutra:

- Sub-sect of Mahayana
- all the phenomenon have dependent origin thus nothing exist on its own.
- It promoted the doctrine of Shunyawad (emptiness)
- Propounder was Nagarjuna.
- It's a nihilist philosophy.

7) Yogacharya:

- By Vasubandhu in Samudra gupta Court.
- **Sub-sect of Mahayana**
- **consciousness** is the basis of all experience. All phenomena are created by consciousness.
- Yogacara recognizes three levels of reality: the **dependent** nature, the **constructed** nature, and the **ultimate** nature. The dependent nature is the way things appear to us, while the constructed nature is the way we construct our own reality. The ultimate nature is the underlying reality that is beyond all concepts.
- also called **Vigyanwad**.

Q.3 Consider the following events in the history of India:

1. Rise of Pratiharas under **King Bhoja**
2. Establishment of Pallava power under **Mahendravarman-I**
3. Establishment of Chola power by **Parantaka-I**
4. Pala dynasty founded by **Gopala**

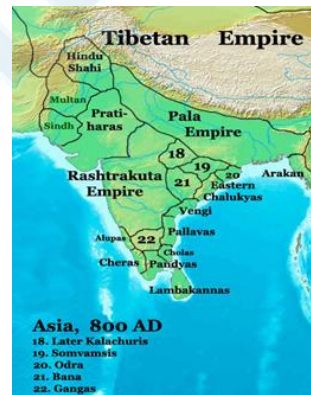
What is the correct chronological order of the above events, starting from the earliest time?

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

The Palas (750-1150 AD):

Introduction: West Bengal was known as **Gauda** and East Bengal as **Vanga** → **Sasanka** the Gauda ruler ruled Bengal from 590 and 625 CE → post- Gaudas there was political **chaos** in Bengal → in 750 CE, a group of chiefs met and decided on a Kshatriya chief named **Gopala** to be their ruler.

The Pala dynasty ruled from 8th century to 12th century CE in the regions comprising Bihar and Bengal.



- 1) **Gopala:** Founder of **Pala** dynasty + defeated later Guptas + built Buddhist monastery of **Odantpuri** in BR
- 2) **Dharampala:** occupied Kannuj + Founded the **Vikramshila** in Bihar + **Sompuri University** in Bangladesh + He had frequent wars with the Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas
- 3) **Devpala:** defeated Rastrakuta King **Amoghvarsha** + defeated **Mihirkula** a Huna King + his court was adorned by a Buddhist scholar name **Vajradatta** + Arab merchant name **Sulaiman** visited his kingdom who called Pala empire with the name **Ruhima**

Decline: replaced by **Sena dynasty a Hindu dynasty**, thus ending last Buddhist dynasty in India.

Legacy of Pala rule:

- They built magnificent monasteries and temples: **Somapura** Mahavihara (in Bangladesh), **Odantapuri** Monastery and **Vikramshila** and also patronized Nalanda.
- During this time, the **Bengali** language developed. The first Bengali literary work Charyapada is attributed to this period. It was written in an **Abahatta** (the common ancestor of Bengali, Assamese, Odia and Maithili).
- The Palas were great patrons of **Mahayana Buddhism**. The Buddhist philosopher **Haribhadra** was the spiritual preceptor of Dharmapala.
- The earliest examples of **miniature painting** in India exist in the form of illustrations to the religious texts on Buddhism executed under the Palas of the eastern India.
- Manuscripts were written on **palm leaves**. In these paintings scenes of life of Buddha and several god and goddess of Mahayana sects are depicted. The impact of **tantricism** on these paintings are easily visible.
- Pala sculpture **was inspired from Gupta art** which comprise of **Buddhist** And **Hindu** themes using **stone** and **Bronze**.
- Pala rulers patronized **Nalanda school of Bronze statues** dedicated to Vajrayana sect of Buddhism.
- Arab merchant, Sulaiman, who visited India in the middle of the ninth century, and wrote an account of it. He calls the Pala Kingdom Ruhma (meaning Dharma)
- The Pala Empire was dethroned by the Hindu **Sena** dynasty in the 12th century.

Gurjar-Pratiharas (750-1100 CE):

- The literary meaning of Pratihara is 'door keeper.' It is believed that their ancestor Lakshmana served as a door keeper to his brother Rama. Therefore, they were called as Pratihara.
- The geographical name of Gujarat is supposed to be derived from Gurjara.
- The bardic tradition of Rajasthan claims that the Gurjara Pratiharas, Chalukyas, Parmaras, and Chahmanas were born out of a yajna done at Mount Abu. Therefore, these four dynasties are also known as agnikulas (fire-clans).

Important rulers:

- 1) **Nagbhata I:** effective resistance against the Arab invasion on India + defeated Rastrakuta King name Dhruv.
- 2) **Vatsraj:** during his reign Tripartite struggle between Pratiharas-Palas and Rastrakutas began for establishing control over Kanyakubja/Kannauj/Mahodaya.
- 3) **Mihir Bhoja:** most famous king of the Gurjara Pratiharas dynasty + adopted the title of 'Adivaraha.' + other names as 'Mihir', 'Prabhasa,' etc.

devotee of Vishnu + Defeated Rastrakuta ruler Krishna II + Arab merchant name Sulaiman visited his court.

- 4) Mahipala:** Rajashekhar was a court poet of Pratihara king Mahipala. Rajashekhar is credited for writing literature like Karpuramanjari, Kavyamimansa, Balaramayana

Decline: defeated by Ghanavids and were succeeded by Chauhans in Rajasthan, Solankis in Gujarat and Parmaras in Malwa

Points to remember:

- Rajashekhar (Sanskrit poet) lived at the court of Mahendrapala-I.
- Arab scholar, Al-Masudi, visited India in A.D. 915-916 who referred Kingdom of Pratiharas as Al-Juzr (Gurjara).
- tripartite struggle among Rastrakutas+ Pratiharas + Palas for control over Kannauj.
- During their rule, interaction between India and Arab led to the spread of Indian culture, literature, and science, especially mathematics, algebra, and medicine to the Arab world from where these were further transmitted to Europe.
- Arab merchants who visited India in this period are Suleiman and Al-Masudi, refer to the Paratihara Kingdom as **al-Juzr**
- Their power declined after defeat by Rashtrakuta king, Indra-II.

Pallavas:

- The Pallava Dynasty was one of the South Indian ruling dynasties which gained prominence after the eclipse of the **Satavahanas** dynasty, whom the Pallavas served as **feudatories**.
- Founder→ Simhavishnu
- Their capital was **Kanchipuram**.
- They belonged to land of creepers 'Tondaimandalam'→ **Pallavas** .
- Pallavas became a major power during the reign of **Mahendravarman I (571– 630 CE)** and **Narasimhavarman I (630–668 CE)** and dominated the Andhra and northern parts of the Tamil region for about 600 years until the **end of the 9th century**.
- They developed the **Pallava script** which gave birth to Grantha script.
- Pallavas were **in constant conflict with Chalukyas, Pandyas and Cholas**.
- Finally, **Pallavas were replaced by Cholas**.

Famous Pallava rulers:

Simhavishnu: founder + Bharavi who wrote Kirit Arjuniya was his court poet.

Mahendravarman I (600-630 AD):

- He was known by various titles like **Vichitra Chitta** (curious mind), **Chaityakari** (builder of Chaityas and temples), **Chitrakar Puli** (tiger among painters).
- He was a dramatist and poet and composed play called **Bhagvatijulkiyam** and **Mattavilasa Prahasana** (the delight of the drunkard).

- Mahendravarman was initially a patron of the Jain faith, but he converted into the Saiva faith under the influence of the Saiva saint Appar.
- He started Monolithic temple architecture such as **Mandagapattu, Mahendravadi etc.**
- He was defeated and killed by Pulakesin II in a battle.

Narasimhavarman I (630 AD – 668 AD)

- Son and successor of Mahendravarman.
- Considered the greatest of the Pallavas. Also called **Narasimhavarman Mahamalla/Mamalla.**
- **Defeated and killed Pulakesin II** in 642 AD.
- He took control of Vatapi, the Chalukya capital and assumed the title '**Vatapikonda**'.
- He founded the city of **Mamallapuram or Mahabalipuram** which is named after him.
- Great Nayannar saints like Appar, Tirugnanasambandar and Siruthondar lived during his reign.
- During his reign famous Panch Pandav **Rath Temple** was constructed which is Rock Cut Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- **Hsuen Tsang: The Chinese traveller** visited Kanchipuram in 642 CE during his reign.

CHOLA DYNASTY:

- Feudatories of Pallavas.
- Founder Vijjala chola.
- During 9th century Chola regained their prominence in south Indian political history.
- Their main capital was **Tanjore**. They also extended **their reign Sri Lanka and the Malay Peninsula.** Therefore, they are called as the Imperial Cholas.
- Despite these ancient origins, the period when it is appropriate to speak of a "Chola Empire" only begins with the medieval **Cholas in the mid-9th century CE.**
- The whole country south of the Tungabhadra was united and held as one state for a period of three centuries and more **between 907 and 1215 AD.**
- powerful navy → BoB as Chola lake.

Famous chola rulers:

Vijayalaya (847 – 871 AD): Founder + built the city of **Thanjavur.**

Parantaka I (907 – 955 AD): "Madurain-konda" after capturing **Pandya** capital Madurai + title **Kunjarmallan** (Elephant wrestler) + **Uttarmerur** inscription regarding Local self Govt during Cholas +

Rajaraja I (985 – 1014 AD)

- It was under Rajaraja I and his son Rajendra I that the Chola power reached its highest point of glory.

- He attacked and **annexed entire Sri Lanka.**
- Rajaraja's last military achievement was a naval expedition against the **Maldives Islands** which were conquered.
- He completed the construction of the famous **Rajarajeswara temple or Brihadeeswara temple at Tanjore** in 1010 AD.
- He also helped in the construction of a **Buddhist monastery at Nagapattinam.**

Rajendra I (1014-1044 AD)

- He continued his father's policy of aggressive conquests and expansion. His most **famous military enterprise was his expedition to north India.**
- He is known as **Napoleon of the South** for his successful military campaigns.
- The Chola army crossed the **Ganges** by defeating a number of rulers on its way to commemorate this **successful north-Indian campaign** Rajendra founded the city of **Gangaikondacholapuram** and constructed the famous **Rajesvaram** temple in that city.
- Defeated **Mahipala**, the Pala king of Bengal and Bihar, in 1019 CE
- In 1025 he launched naval raids **on ports of Srivijaya** in maritime Southeast Asia which was a unique event in India's history and its otherwise peaceful relations with the states of Southeast Asia.
- Conducted conquest of the island of Sri Lanka in 1017 AD and took the **Sinhala king Mahinda V as a prisoner.**
- Several places in **Malaysia and Indonesia** were invaded by Rajendra Chola.
- He cultivated **friendly relations with the emperor of China** and sent ambassadors there in 1016 and 1033 AD.

Q.4 With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs:

Famous Place	Present State
1. Bhilsa	Madhya Pradesh
2. Dwarasamudra	Maharashtra
3. Girinagar	Gujarat
4. Sthanesvara	Uttar Pradesh

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Dwarasamudra

- (modern **Halebidu**) was the **capital of the Hoysala Empire** in the **12th–14th centuries CE.**

- **Raided by Malik Kafur (1311 CE) & again by Muhammad bin Tughlaq (1326 CE).**
- The city was **abandoned**, leading to its new name "**Halebidu**" (Old City).
- Hoysaleswara Temple, Kedarareshwar temple, Jain Basadis (Shrines) can be found here.

Girinagar:

- Location → GJ
- Girnar has rock edicts of Emperor Ashoka.
- Inscription of Rudradaman and Skandgupta.
- Home to **ancient Jain temples dedicated to Tirthankaras**, including: **Neminatha Temple (12th century), Parshvanatha Temple, Rishabhdev Temple.**
- **A major Jain pilgrimage site** in Gujarat.
- A famous **Hindu and Jain pilgrimage** event where devotees **circumambulate the sacred Girnar hills.**

Sthaneshwar/Thanesar: capital of Harsha + located in HR + Chinese traveler Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang) visited Thanesar

Q.5 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

- **"Paramita"** is a Sanskrit term, which means **"perfection"**. In the context of Buddhist philosophy, **'paramitas' refers to the perfections or virtues that a Bodhisattva must cultivate to achieve enlightenment** and assist others in attaining the same.
- The attainment of these perfections is essential for those who aspire to follow the Bodhisattva path.

The **six primary paramitas** often referenced in Buddhist texts include:

- **Dāna (Generosity):** The practice of giving and selflessness.
- **Sīla (Morality):** Ethical conduct and moral discipline.
- **Kṣanti (Patience):** The ability to endure hardship and remain calm.
- **Vīrya (Diligence):** Enthusiastic perseverance in practicing virtue.
- **Dhyāna (Meditation):** Focused meditation to develop concentration.
- **Prajñā (Wisdom):** Insight into the true nature of reality.