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# PRELIMS 2026 HISTORY



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1.

Consider the following assertion :

*In the Pleistocene period either the Yamuna once flowed into the Indus, or the Sutlej flowed into the Yamuna and one major tributary of either had shifted from the Ganga to the Indus or vice versa.*

Which of the following is/are the basis of the above assertion ?

1. The *Nadi-Sukta* of the *Rigveda*
2. The explorations of the Sutlej and the Yamuna by Robert Bruce Foote
3. The presence of the same species of dolphins in both the Indus and the Ganga river systems

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Ans B**      **the correct basis is Robert Bruce Foote's explorations of the Sutlej and Yamuna, which supported the idea of river course shifts in the Pleistocene period. The other two statements are not the standard basis cited for this assertion.**

**Source - NOV 2025**

**<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/varanasi/maternal-ancestry-of-gujs-popn-dates-back-to-40000-yrs/articleshow/126309322.cms>**

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2. What does an empty seat represent in early Buddhist iconography ?
- (a) The meditation of the Buddha
  - (b) The Buddha's First Sermon
  - (c) The Buddha's *Mahaparinibbana*
  - (d) The Buddha's *Mahabhinishkramana*

## Ans A

The vacant seat was supposed to represent the Buddha's meditation, and the stupa was supposed to represent the mahaparinibbana. The wheel was another often used symbol. This referred to the Buddha's first sermon, which he delivered in Sarnath.

Source - JAN 2026

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/varanasi/maternal-ancestry-of-gujs-popn-dates-back-to-40000-yrs/articleshow/126309322.cms>

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3. <sup>3</sup> Which of the following pairs of ancient and modern names of rivers is/are correctly matched ?

1. Vitasta : Chenab
2. Asikni : Jhelum
3. Parushni : Ravi
4. Yavyavati : Beas

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Ans B**

- **Vitasta = Jhelum**
- **Asikni = Chenab**
- **Parushni = Ravi**
- **Yavyavati = Beas**

**Source - VAJIRAM BOOK**

4. Which of the following statements on the Amaravati Stupa and its relief sculpture is/are correct ?

1. It was located in the lower Krishna valley.
2. In India, it was next only to the Sanchi Stupa in size.
3. The Amaravati school of sculpture made a lasting impact on the later South Indian sculpture, and its products were carried to Sri Lanka and South-east Asia.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Ans B**

**Amaravati was in the lower Krishna valley, and its sculptural tradition influenced later South Indian sculpture and spread to Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia;**

**Standard descriptions place Amaravati among the largest stupas in Buddhist India, but not as "next only to Sanchi" in size**

**Source - July 2025**

**<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2025/Jul/26/ap-seeks-centres-help-to-bring-back-amaravati-buddhist-artefacts-from-uk>**

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5. Which of the following pairs of the king and his dynasty in early historical Tamilakam is/are not correctly matched ?

1. Senguttuvan : Chera
2. Udiyanjeral : Chola
3. Nedunjeliyan : Pandya

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Ans B**

**Senguttavan - Chera  
Nedunjelidan - Pandya  
Udiyanjeral - is also Chera  
Kili, Vallavan- Chola**

**Source - Vajiram Book / Notes - SANGAM and  
SOUTH INDIA Chapters**

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6.

Which of the following factors contributed to the formation of the Forward Bloc by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1939 ?

1. Bose failed to win the confidence of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. The Congress Left was disunited and failed to support Bose.
3. The Communists did not support Bose in his endeavours.
4. The supporters of M.N. Roy and socialist leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan preferred Congress unity to supporting Bose.

Select the answer using the code given below :

~~(a)~~ 1, 2 and 3

(b) 1, 2 and 4

(c) 1, 3 and 4

~~(d)~~ 2 and 4 only

**Ans B**

**1 2 AND 4 ARE CORRECT**

**. The statement about the Communists not supporting Bose is not taken as a correct contributing factor here, while the other three fit the historical context of the Forward Bloc's formation in 1939.**

**Source - Vajiram Book / Notes + Current affairs. Multiple times in Jan 2026 and Feb 2026**

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7.3 Consider the following statements regarding the British policy in Awadh immediately after its annexation in 1856 :

1. The *talukdars* were dispossessed of their estates but allowed to retain their arms and forts.
2. A Summary Revenue Settlement was made in 1856 assuming that the *talukdars* were outsiders.
3. The British believed in taking revenue directly from the peasants by removing the *talukdars*.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

**Ans C**

**The correct option is (c) 1, 2 and 3.**

**The three statements are consistent with the post-annexation British approach in Awadh: the taluqdars were displaced, a summary revenue settlement was introduced in 1856, and the British aimed to collect revenue more directly from peasants by weakening the taluqdars.**

**Source - Vajiram Book / Notes - 170 years of annexation of Awadh**

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8.

Consider the following assertion :

*The genesis of political alliances based on community lay in the very nature of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms, 1919.*

Which of the following statements support/supports the above assertion ?

1. Reforms retained and extended the principle of separate electorates.
2. Separate electorates were supposed to counter Indian nationalism, which was growing stronger.
3. Deprived classes rallied around the favours inherent in separate electorates.

Select the answer using the code given below :

(a) 1 only

~~(b)~~ 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3 ✓

**Ans D**

- **1 is correct: the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms continued and expanded separate electorates.**
- **2 is correct: separate electorates were also meant to divide political representation and weaken the nationalist challenge.**
- **3 is correct: many deprived or marginalized groups saw separate electorates as a way to secure political safeguards and representation.**

**Source - Vajiram Book / Notes - 170 years of  
annxation of Awadh**

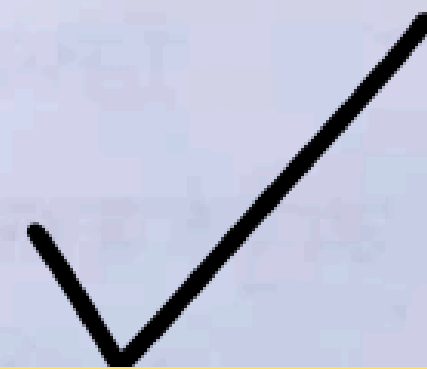
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9. Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur, the famous classical singer from Karnataka, represented the :

- (a) Agra Gharana
- (b) Gwalior Gharana
- (c) Patiala Gharana
- (d) Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana



**Ans D**

**Pandit Mallikarjun Bheemaraayappa Mansur, (31 December 1910 – 12 September 1992) was a Hindustani classical singer from Karnataka. He sang in the khyal genre and belonged to the Jaipur-Atrauli gharana**

**Source - Jan 2026**

**<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/additional-grants-sought-for-mallikarjun-mansur-cultural-centre-in-dharwad/article70458046.ece>**

10.

In which one among the following texts does the term *kshetra-patni* ('mistress of the field') originate ?

(a) *Rigveda*

(b) *Atharvaveda*

(c) *Ashtadhyayi*

(d) *Arthashastra*

**Ans C**

**Pandit Mallikarjun Bheemaraayappa Mansur, (31 December 1910 – 12 September 1992) was a Hindustani classical singer from Karnataka. He sang in the khyal genre and belonged to the Jaipur-Atrauli gharana**

**Source - Mar 2026**

**<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/additional-grants-sought-for-mallikarjun-mansur-cultural-centre-in-dharwad/article70458046.ece>**

11. Which one of the following Carnatic music ragas is similar to *Raga Bilawal* in Hindustani music ?

(a) Nat Bhairavi

(b) Kamavardhini

(c) Hanumatodi

(d) Dheera Shankarabharanam ✓

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**Ans D**

**The Bilaval is equivalent to the Carnatic raga  
melakarta**

**Sankarabharanam**

**, as well as the Western Ionian mode (major  
scale), and contains the notes S R G M P D N  
S'.**

**Source - OCT 2025**

**[https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/  
additional-grants-sought-for-mallikarjun-mansur-  
cultural-centre-in-dharwad/article70458046.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/additional-grants-sought-for-mallikarjun-mansur-cultural-centre-in-dharwad/article70458046.ece)**

12. The artificially fixed rupee-sterling exchange rate prescribed by the Hilton-Young Commission (1926) was adopted by the British Government for which one of the following reasons ?

- (a) Aiding the flow of remittances from India and maintaining India's creditworthiness
- (b) Providing support to Indian importers
- (c) Encouraging export of cotton produce from India
- (d) Preventing depreciation of the Rupee in terms of gold

**Ans A**

**The Hilton-Young Commission dealt with India's currency and finance arrangements, including the rupee-sterling ratio and the broader monetary system. The British Government accepted the fixed exchange arrangement because it helped stabilize remittances from India to Britain and supported confidence in India's financial position, which is essentially what "maintaining India's creditworthiness" means**

**Source - Mar 2026**

**<https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/knowledge-nugget-reserve-bank-of-india-rbi-economy-forex-upsc-10611841/>**

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13) Consider the following statements :

- I. Pali texts contain the first definite references to coins, e.g., *kahapana*, *nikkha*, *kamsa*, and *kakanika*.
- II. The literary evidence from Pali texts is corroborated by archaeological evidence of punch-marked coins from many sites, most of them made of silver.

The above statements have been associated with which of the following ?

1. Emergence of urban life
2. Transition to money economy

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Ans C

Pali texts (Jātakas and other Buddhist literature) mention coin-names such as kahapāṇa, nikkha, kaṃsa/kakanika and smaller tokens, showing literary evidence of coin use; this is linked to expanding trade and urban transactions.

Archaeology finds large numbers of silver punch-marked coins from many sites dated to the Mahājanapada/early historic period, which corroborate the literary evidence and indicate a move toward a money economy that accompanied the Second Urbanisation (emergence of urban life)

Source - Times of India SEPT 2025

[https://www.google.com/url?](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/silver-copper-coins-from-early-historic-period-found-in-porpanaikottai/articleshow/124164458.cms&ved=2ahUKEwizpPKdg9KUAxWiT2wGHQwqFGcQxfQBKAB6BAgJEAE&usg=AOvVaw2FJrIVGduoljETzHDkwY3u)

[sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/silver-copper-coins-from-early-historic-period-found-in-porpanaikottai/articleshow/124164458.cms&ved=2ahUKEwizpPKdg9KUAxWiT2wGHQwqFGcQxfQBKAB6BAgJEAE&usg=AOvVaw2FJrIVGduoljETzHDkwY3u](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/silver-copper-coins-from-early-historic-period-found-in-porpanaikottai/articleshow/124164458.cms&ved=2ahUKEwizpPKdg9KUAxWiT2wGHQwqFGcQxfQBKAB6BAgJEAE&usg=AOvVaw2FJrIVGduoljETzHDkwY3u)

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14. Which of the following temples has/have a Nagara-style shikhara ?

1. Malegitti Shivalaya, Badami
2. Huchimalligudi Temple, Aihole
3. Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh
4. Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal

Select the answer using the code given below :

~~(a)~~ 1 and 2

(b) 2 and 3

(c) 3 only ✓

~~(d)~~ 3 and 4

**Ans C**

**The Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal is primarily Dravidian, while the Badami and Aihole examples in this question are not the standard Nagara-shikhara examples being tested here.**

**Source - Vajiram Book**

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15.

Among the four main forms of existence of life recognized in Jainism, which one of the following is *not* included ?

- (a) *Deva* (gods) ✓
- (b) *Yaksha* (demi-gods)
- (c) *Manushya* (humans)
- (d) *Tiryancha* (animals and plants)

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**Ans A**

**The four main forms in Jainism are typically:**

- **Manushya = humans**
- **Tiryancha = animals and plants**
- **Naraka = hell beings**
- **Deva is a separate celestial category, but the standard fourfold classification of worldly existence does not count it here.**

**Source - Dec 2025**

**<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/souths-ayodhya-moment-a-flame-divides-the-hill-of-many-gods-why-karthigai-deepam-row-matters-beyond-tamil-nadu/articleshow/125959384.cms>**

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16.

The *Hallsalasya* painting in the Bagh Caves represents :

- (a) A joyous folk dance ✓
- (b) Buddha in a meditative pose
- (c) The depiction of Shiva and Parvati on Kailasha
- (d) Samudramanathan (Churning of the Ocean)

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**Ans A**

**The term 'Hallisalasya' specifically highlights the effort or activities related to tilling and cultivating fields.**

**These paintings celebrate the importance of agriculture in ancient Indian society and show the harmony between humans and their environment**

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17.

Consider the following statements relating to the use of the place-value system in India :

1. The earliest epigraphic use of the place-value system in India is found in the Mankani plates from Gujarat (AD 595 – 596).
2. In the ninth century, place-values become general in inscriptions all over India.
3. The place-values have been found in Sanskrit inscriptions in South-east Asia as early as the seventh century.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only ✓

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans A**

**The earliest epigraphic evidence for decimal place-value notation in India is associated with the Mankani plates, and early examples also appear in Sanskrit inscriptions in Southeast Asia from the 7th century, while the claim that it became general in Indian inscriptions only in the 9th century is not correct as stated.**

**Source - NOV 2025**

**<https://education.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/higher-education/ugcs-draft-maths-curriculum-needs-more-thinking-through/125428374>**

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18. Consider the following statements about the archaeological findings in Harappan towns :

- I. There is wide occurrence of spindle-whorls in the houses but absence of spinning wheels.
- II. Weights and measurement scales, complete with graduations have been discovered.
- III. There are houses built in large part with baked bricks, around relatively spacious courtyards, with their own wells, bathing platforms, and large rooms.

Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the above statements ?

1. Statement I suggests that spinning was a laborious activity done at home.
2. Statement II suggests the extent of the scientific knowledge that the Harappans possessed.
3. Statement III suggests the emergence of a common property system.

Select the 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

**Ans A**

- **Statement I is a valid inference: spindle-whorls suggest spinning activity at home, but the absence of spinning wheels means we should not overstate the technology used.**
- **Statement II is also valid: standardized weights and measurement scales indicate a fairly advanced scientific and administrative understanding.**
- **Statement III is not a safe inference: large houses with baked bricks and courtyards show urban planning and prosperity, but not necessarily a "common property system."**

**Source -Vajiram Notes**

19. Which one of the following statements about the Eka Movement and Bardoli Satyagraha is correct ?

(a) The Eka Movement was throughout supported and organized by the Congress while Bardoli Satyagraha was initially independent of Congress influence and was only in the last stages supported by the Congress.

(b) The Eka Movement was provided leadership by the *taluqdars* of Awadh, whereas the Bardoli Satyagraha was a movement of the landless labourers.

(c) The Bardoli Satyagraha was a campaign against the enhancement of land revenue, while the Eka Movement was a protest against excessive extraction of rents.

(d) The Eka Movement was located in the Varanasi and Mirzapur districts of the present-day U.P., while the Bardoli Satyagraha took place in Saurashtra.

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**Ans C**

- **Bardoli Satyagraha was launched against the enhancement of land revenue, while the Eka Movement was a protest against high rents and oppressive landlord exactions in Awadh/United Provinces**

**Source - Aug 2025**

**<https://scroll.in/article/1085533/erased-from-the-record-the-activasi-freedom-fighters-of-bardoli>**

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20.

Consider the following statements about the Rigvedic period :

- I. Irrigation from wells allowed agriculture to expand away from flood plains and strips on river margins into the present Punjab and Haryana plains having underground water levels reasonably close to the surface.
- II. Draught-animal power was employed to draw up water out of the wells.

Which of the following information support/supports the above statements ?

1. There is evidence in the *Rigveda* of the use of *ashma chakra* (stone pulley wheel) and *ahava* (strapped wooden pails) to draw up water.
2. Mention has been made in the *Rigveda* of the use of implements like *parashu / kulisha* (axe) and *datra / sreni* (sickle).
3. There is a history of the use of ox, even before the *Rigveda*, for ploughing the land and pulling the carts.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Ans C**

**Statement 1 is supported because the Rigvedic period had references to wells and irrigation, and statement 3 is supported because oxen were used for ploughing and cart-pulling in the Rigvedic age.**

**Statement 2 is not supported by the standard Rigvedic evidence in this context, so the option including it is incorrect.**

**Source - Vajiram Book**

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