

UPSC MCQ

R KONDALA

Q1

- **1) Consider the following statements.**
 - Statement I: Lord Curzon passed the Calcutta Corporation Act of 1899 to improve the efficiency of urban governance and public health in the imperial capital.
 - Statement II: The Calcutta Corporation Act of 1899 effectively reduced the influence of the Bengali intelligentsia by decreasing the number of elected Indian councilors and ensuring a permanent official majority.
 - Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
 - (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
 - (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
 - (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct
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- Solution A
 - Statement I is correct because the official justification provided by Curzon for the 1899 Act was the need for **"efficiency" and "modernization" of the city's drainage**, water supply, and general administration, which he claimed were being hampered by the "talkative" nature of the elected Indian members.
 - However, the mechanism through which he achieved this—as highlighted in Statement II—was the systematic reduction of elected Indian representatives (from 50 to 25) while increasing the number of official British nominees.
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- This Statement II explains Statement I because the "efficiency" Curzon sought was synonymous with undisputed British control over the municipal body. By ensuring an official majority, the Raj could bypass Indian opposition to tax increases or administrative changes.
 - The Bengali middle class viewed this as a direct attack on the local self-government granted by Lord Ripon and as an insult to their administrative abilities
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DEC 2025


- The 123-year-old manual clock, which was gifted to the Golden Temple by Lord Curzon, who was the Viceroy of India from 1899 to 1905, has now been restored after two years and will be put back in the sacred sanctum in January 2026. The clock is now ticking.



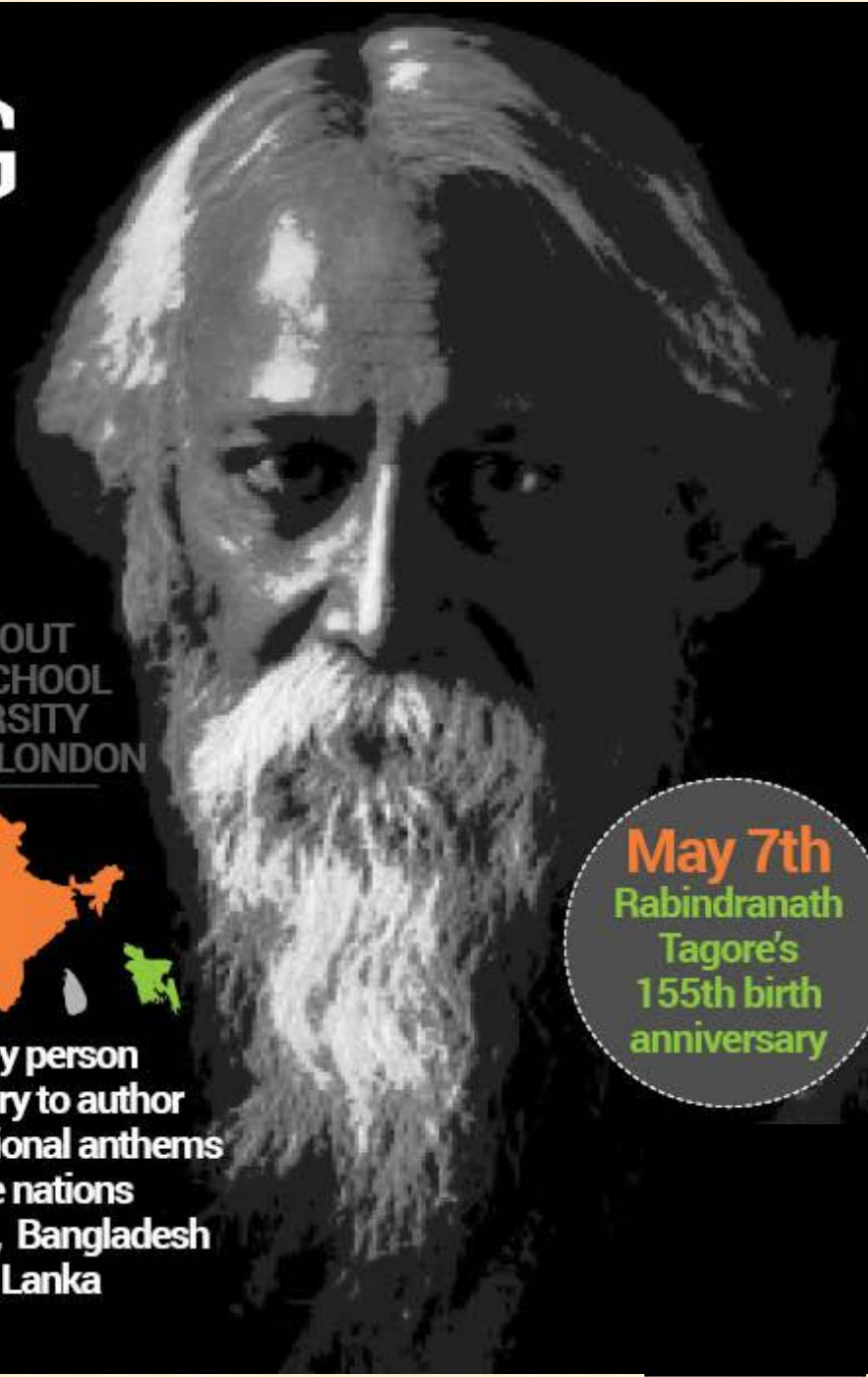
Q2

- The concept of "Atma Shakti" (Self-Reliance), popularized during the Swadeshi Movement, was most famously championed in the writings of:
 - (a) Dadabhai Naoroji
 - (b) Lord Minto
 - (c) Surendranath Banerjea
 - (d) Rabindranath Tagore
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- Ans D
 - While many leaders used the term, Rabindranath Tagore was the most profound philosopher of "Atma Shakti".
 - In his 1904 essay Swadeshi Samaj, he argued that the real strength of India lay not in political petitions to the British but in the social and cultural regeneration of the villages.
 - He emphasized the creation of indigenous educational institutions, cooperative societies, and the use of modern technology within a traditional framework. Tagore's vision of Swadeshi was a constructive program for national empowerment that aimed to make the Indian people independent of the colonial state even before formal political freedom was achieved.
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- In May 2026 - PM and PM of Sweden exchange special gifts celebrating the shared cultural legacy of Rabindranath Tagore
 - The gift from Prime Minister Kristersson comprised a box containing two replicas of hand-written epigrams by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, accompanied by a small explanatory text and a photograph of Gurudev Tagore taken in 1921 during his visit to Uppsala University.
 - The originals, recently discovered in the Swedish National Archives, were created by Gurudev Tagore during his visits to Sweden in 1921 and 1926.
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REMEMBERING INDIA'S MOST SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE DROPOUT



Lasted in Presidency
College for only one day



DROPPED OUT
OF LAW SCHOOL
AT UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE, LONDON



When given the responsibility of the family
'zamindari', he said, "Zamindari is my
profession and Asmandari is my passion"



**ENGLISH WAS HIS
LEAST FAVOURITE
SUBJECT**

Travelled to more
than 30 countries in
five continents



Founded the
Visva Bharati
University in
Shantiniketan,
West Bengal,
in 1921


**The only person
in history to author
the national anthems
of three nations
– India, Bangladesh
and Sri Lanka**

May 7th
Rabindranath
Tagore's
155th birth
anniversary

Q3

- Consider the following statements regarding the Indian National Congress in 1900:
 - Statement I: Lord Curzon's assessment that the Congress was "tottering to its fall" was influenced by the internal factionalism and the perceived lack of mass support for the organization.
 - Statement II: In 1900, the Congress was primarily a moderate body composed of the professional middle class, advocating for constitutional reforms within the British framework.
 - Statement III: The partition of Bengal was specifically designed to help the moderate faction gain more influence within the Congress to suppress extremist tendencies.
 - Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?
 - (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
 - (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains the perception in Statement I
 - (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
 - (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct
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- Ans B
 - **Statement I is correct.** Around 1900, Lord Curzon viewed the Indian National Congress as a declining force because it was dominated by elite leaders, lacked a broad mass base, and was internally divided. The Congress was seen by colonial officials as a “microscopic minority” disconnected from the wider population, which shaped Curzon’s dismissive assessment.
 - **Statement II is also correct** and directly explains Statement I. At this time, the Congress was largely a moderate organization led by lawyers, teachers, and urban professionals. Its methods focused on petitions, resolutions, and constitutional reforms within the British imperial system. This limited social base and cautious political approach contributed to the perception that the Congress lacked vitality and popular support.
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- **Statement III is incorrect.** The partition of Bengal in 1905 was not designed to strengthen the moderates; rather, it was a classic example of the British “divide and rule” strategy aimed at weakening Bengali nationalism as a whole.
 - Ironically, it radicalized politics and strengthened extremist tendencies instead of suppressing them.
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Viceroyalty of India (1899–1905)

- **January 1899:** Arrived in India, taking office at age 39 as the youngest Viceroy of India.
- **1899:** Passed the Calcutta Corporation Act, reducing the number of elected Indian members to satisfy European business interests.
- **1901:** Introduced agricultural reforms, including the establishment of the *Co-operative Credit Societies Act* to provide loans to farmers.
- **1902:** Appointed the *Police Commission* under Sir Andrew Fraser to reform and reorganize the Indian police system.
- **1902:** Established the *University Commission*, which led to the passing of the *Indian Universities Act of 1904*, tightening government control over higher education.
- **1904:** Formally established the Archaeological Survey of India to protect and restore ancient monuments and cultural sites.
- **July 1905:** Announced the highly controversial partition of the Bengal Presidency into two separate provinces (West Bengal and Eastern Bengal & Assam).
- **October 16, 1905:** The partition of Bengal officially went into effect.
- **August 1905:** Resigned from his post as Viceroy following a bitter dispute with the Commander-in-Chief of India, Lord Kitchener, over the administrative control of the military.

- **With reference to the 'Repression and Reform' policy of Lord Minto II, consider the following statements:**
 - 1. Repression was aimed at the Extremists to cripple their organization and influence.
 - 2. Reforms were aimed at the Moderates to entice them with constitutional concessions and separate them from the Extremists.
 - 3. The Indian Press Act of 1910 and the Seditious Meetings Act of 1907 were the 'Reform' components of this policy.
 - How many of the above statements are correct?
 - (a) Only one
 - (b) Only two
 - (c) All three
 - (d) None
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- Ans B
 - Lord Minto's tenure is a classic example of the "Carrot and Stick" approach in colonial governance.
 - **Statement 1 is correct;** the British used harsh laws and imprisonment to suppress the Extremist faction led by Tilak, Pal, and Lajpat Rai.
 - **Statement 2 is correct;** the 1909 Reforms were the "carrot" designed to make the Moderates believe they were gaining power, thereby encouraging them to abandon the radicals.
 - **Statement 3 is incorrect;** the Indian Press Act and Seditious Meetings Act were part of the 'Repression' (Stick) component, not the 'Reform' (Carrot) component.
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- **AUG 2025 – LORD MINTO**
 - Rouse Avenue lies within the larger Minto Road area, named after Lord Minto, who served as Viceroy of India from 1905 to 1910. Born in 1845, Minto was a British peer and politician with a military background. He had served in the Scots Guards and participated in campaigns such as the Second Afghan War.
 - During the Napoleonic Wars (1807–1813), Governor-General Lord Minto identified Kharg Island as a critical strategic stronghold to defend British India. Concerned that France or Russia might launch an invasion through Persia, his administration used the threat of naval force to coerce the Persian government and proposed occupying Kharg Island as a forward defensive base
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Q5


- **With reference to Lord Curzon's foreign policy, consider the following statements:**
 - 1. His 'North-West Frontier Policy' aimed to consolidate British control over Chitral and construct a road connecting it to Peshawar.
 - 2. The 'Younghusband Mission' was sent to Tibet to check the perceived growing influence of Russia in the region.
 - 3. Curzon's Tibetan policy resulted in the Treaty of Lhasa, which required Tibet to pay a large indemnity to the British.
 - How many of the above statements are correct?
 - (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None
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- Ans C
 - Lord Curzon was a practitioner of "Forward Policy" to protect the British Indian borders. All three statements are correct.
 - Statement 1: Curzon took a proactive stance on the North-West Frontier, securing British interests in Chitral and improving connectivity to ensure rapid troop movement.
 - Statement 2: Curzon was suspicious of Russian expansionism and believed they were seeking a foothold in Tibet. To counter this, he dispatched the Younghusband Mission in 1903-04, which was a military-cumdiplomatic expedition.
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Q6

- Consider the following information regarding the Partition of Bengal and the Swadeshi Movement:
Leader Region of Activity Key Association/Work
 - 1. Chidambaram Pillai- Madras - Swadeshi Steam Navigation Co.
 - 2. Satish Chandra Mukherjee – Bengal - Dawn Society and National Education
 - 3. Lala Lajpat Rai- Punjab - Organized mass agrarian protests
 - How many of the above rows are correctly matched?
(a) Only one row
 - (b) Only two rows
 - (c) All three rows
 - (d) None
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- Ans C
 - V.O. Chidambaram Pillai was a prominent Swadeshi leader in the Madras Presidency and founded the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company to challenge British shipping dominance, making the first row accurate.
 - Satish Chandra Mukherjee was an influential intellectual associated with the Bengal Swadeshi movement; he played a key role in the Dawn Society and promoted the idea of national education as an alternative to colonial education, so the second row is also correct.
 - Lala Lajpat Rai was one of the tallest nationalist leaders from Punjab and was deeply involved in mobilising peasants during agrarian agitations, particularly during movements like the anti-colonial protests linked to land revenue and canal laws in the early 20th century. His role in organising mass agrarian protests in Punjab aligns well with historical accounts.
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- Nov 2025 – 150 years of Vandemataram
 - Adopted as India's National Song by the Constituent Assembly in 1950.
 - Vande Mataram was initially composed independently and later included in Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's novel "Anandamath" (published in 1882).
 - First sung by Rabindranath Tagore at the 1896 Congress Session in Calcutta.
 - Vande Mataram, as a political slogan, was first used on 7 August 1905.
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Q7

- **With reference to the Indian Press Act of 1910, consider the following statements:**
 - 1. It was passed during the viceroyalty of Lord Minto II to revive the restrictive features of the earlier Vernacular Press Act.
 - 2. The Act empowered the government to demand security deposits from newspapers, which could be forfeited if they published seditious content.
 - 3. It was specifically intended to curtail the influence of newspapers like the 'Kesari' and 'Jugantar'.
 - Which of the above statements are correct?
 - (a) 3 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
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- Ans D
 - The Indian Press Act of 1910 was one of several repressive measures introduced during the Minto era to combat the Swadeshi movement and revolutionary activities. All three statements are correct.
 - Statement 1: Historians often view this Act as a resurrection of the Vernacular Press Act of 1878, as it sought to control the press through financial deterrence.
 - Statement 2: The Act introduced the mechanism of financial securities (Rs. 500 to Rs. 5,000) that proprietors were required to deposit. If any of the broad and vaguely defined provisions of the Act were broken, the security could be forfeited, and the press seized.
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UDANT MARTAND WAS PUBLISHED IN INDIA ON MAY 30, 1826



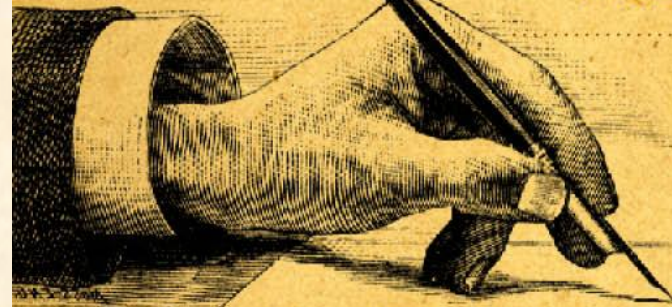
INDIA'S FIRST HINDI NEWSPAPER

THIS DAY IS ALSO CELEBRATED AS HINDI JOURNALISM DAY OR HINDI *PATRAKARITA DIWAS*

It was a **WEEKLY NEWSPAPER**, published from Kolkata every Tuesday

Udant Martand used a **MIX OF HINDI DIALECTS** Khari Boli & Braj Bhasha

Started by **PANDIT JUGAL KISHORE SHUKLA**, the first issue had **500** copies printed




DUE TO HIGH POSTAL RATES & DISTANT READERSHIP, THE NEWSPAPER RAN INTO FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES




newsflicks

- With reference to the Karachi Session of the Indian National Congress in 1931, which of the following statements is/are correct?
 - 1. The session was presided over by Jawaharlal Nehru, who also drafted the resolution on National Economic Programme.
 - 2. It was the first time the Congress explicitly defined the socio-economic content of "Swaraj" for the masses. Which of the above statements are incorrect?
 - (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
-

- Ans A
 - The Karachi Session of 1931 is a milestone in the intellectual history of the freedom struggle.
 - Statement 1 is incorrect; while Jawaharlal Nehru was the primary architect of the draft resolutions, the session was actually presided over by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
 - Statement 2 is correct; the session is most famous for adopting two landmark resolutions—one on Fundamental Rights and another on the National Economic Programme. These resolutions declared that "political freedom must include real economic freedom for the starving millions" and included provisions for a living wage, protection of workers, and state control of key industries.
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- Lahore (1929) and Karachi (1931) are perhaps the two most important landmark sessions of the Indian National Congress (INC) before the Quit India Movement. It was here that Mahatma Gandhi chose his two ablest lieutenants to preside. Forty-year-old Jawaharlal Nehru, with his magnetic appeal amongst the masses, especially the youth, was nominated by Gandhi for the Lahore session of INC where for the first time, the call was given for *Purna Swaraj* (complete independence).
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- In the context of the Civil Disobedience Movement, "Forest Satyagraha" was observed in several regions. Consider the following:
 - 1. It involved the violation of grazing and timber restrictions imposed by the British forest administration.
 - 2. This form of protest was particularly prominent in the Central Provinces, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.
 - 3. The movement was largely symbolic and did not involve any participation from tribal communities. Which of the above statements are correct?
 - (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
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- Ans A
 - Statements 1 and 2 are correct, while Statement 3 is incorrect.
 - Forest Satyagraha during the Civil Disobedience Movement was a concrete and mass-based form of resistance rather than a symbolic gesture. It directly involved the violation of colonial forest laws, especially restrictions on grazing, collection of fuelwood, and cutting of timber imposed by the British forest administration. These laws had severely disrupted the traditional livelihoods of forest-dependent communities and peasants, making forest regulations a highly emotive issue at the grassroots level.
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Q10

- Consider the following statements regarding the Shimla Conference of 1945:
 - 1. The Congress delegation was led Mahatma Gandhi.
 - 2. The Wavell Plan proposed a "balanced representation" by giving equal numbers of seats to "Caste Hindus" and Muslims in the Executive Council. Which of the above statements are incorrect?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
-

- Ans a
 - Although Mahatma Gandhi was the most influential leader of the national movement, he did not lead or formally participate in the Congress delegation at the Shimla Conference. The Congress was represented by its Working Committee members, notably figures such as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, while Gandhi remained outside the negotiations, guiding strategy indirectly.
 - Statement 2 is correct. The Wavell Plan proposed reconstitution of the Viceroy's Executive Council with parity between "Caste Hindus" and Muslims, excluding minorities such as Sikhs, Christians, and Parsis from this parity calculation. This principle of "balanced representation" was central to the plan and became contentious because the Muslim League insisted on being the sole representative of Muslims, while the Congress rejected the communal categorisation of its nominees.
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- Jan 2026
 - **Himachal High Court Questions Centre Over Maintenance Lapses At Historic Viceregal Lodge**
 - *Once the centre of British rule, Viceregal Lodge now faces neglect, prompting the Himachal High Court to demand accountability from authorities.*
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- **Consider the following pairs regarding the administrative terms used during the Satavahana rule: Term Function/Meaning**
 - 1. Golmika - Head of a military regiment acting as a rural administrator
 - 2. Heranika - The royal treasurer or keeper of cash/gold
 - 3. Bhandagarika - Superintendent of royal stores
 - 4. Uparakshita - Supervising official associated with religious endowments
 - How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one pair (b) Only two pairs (c) Only three pairs
(d) All four pairs
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- Ans D
 - Satavahana administration, as known from inscriptions such as those at Nashik and Nanaghat, shows a sophisticated blend of military, fiscal, and religious administration.
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- Some of the important milestones in the history of Dalit movement in India are as follows:
- 1. Temple entry movement: Vaikom Satyagraha
- 2. Advocacy of marriage without brahmin priest, forcible temple entry, burning of the manusmriti and atheism: Self Respect movement
- 3. Proclamation of the need to save the Dalits from the hypocritical Brahmins and their opportunistic scriptures: Satya ShodhakSamaj
- 4. Foundation of an anti-Brahmin platform in Mysore: PrajaMitraMandali
- Select the code for correct pairs:
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

- Ans D

- Match the following: List I List II (Dynasty)
(Founder)
- A. Badami 1. Rashtrakuta
- B. Dwarasamudra 2. Kakatiya
- C. Warangal 3. Hoysala
- D. Manyakheta 4. Chalukya
- Codes: A B C D
- (a) 2 3 4 1
- (b) 3 1 2 4
- (c) 4 2 1 3
- (d) 4 3 2 1

- Ans d

- Arrange the following in chronological order:
- A. Formation of the Interim government
- B. Recall of Lord Linlithgow
- C. Cabinet Mission
- D. Cripps' Mission
- E. Lord Wavell's proposals
- F. Mountbatten Plan.
- (a) B, C, A, D, F, E
- (b) B, D, E, C, A, F
- (c) D, B, F, A, E, C
- (d) A, B, D, C, F, E

- Ans b

- List I List II
- A. Silver tanka 1. Alauddin Khalji
- B. Diwan-i-Kohi 2. Feroz Tughlaq
- C. Dar-ul-Shafa 3. Iltutmish
- D. Shahan-i-Mandi 4. Muhammad Tughlaq
- Codes: A B C D
- (a) 4 3 2 1
- (b) 3 4 1 2
- (c) 3 4 2 1
- (d) 4 3 1 2

- Ans c

- With reference to Pondicherry (now Puducherry), consider the following statements :
- 1. The first European power to occupy Pondicherry was the Portuguese.
- 2. The second European power to occupy Pondicherry were the French
- 3. The English never occupied Pondicherry
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

- Ans a

- Statement I : Bal Gangadhar Tilak sought to diffuse the spirit of nationalism among the masses.
- Statement II : Tilak organised a corps of volunteers to help the famine stricken people in the Deccan.
- Codes :
- (a) Both the statements are true and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I
- (b) Both the statements are true, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I
- (c) Statement I is true, but Statement II is false
- (d) Statement I is false, but Statement II is true

- Ans b

- Syed Ahmad Khan (1817-98) wrote a tract where he tried to examine the underlying causes of 1857. This was titled
- (a) Asbab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind
- (b) An Account of the Loyal Mahomedans of India
- (c) The History of the Indian Mutiny
- (d) Azizun Nisa San Sattavan ka kissa

- Ans a

- Assertion (A): Society became increasingly agrarian during the postGupta period.
- Reason (R): Small peasants could not claim any rights to land.
- (a) Both (A) and (R) are individually true and (R) is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both (A) and (R) are individually true, but (R) is not a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but (R) is false
- (d) A is false, but (R) is true

- Ans d

- Why was the Khilafat Movement started by the Ali brothers after the First World War?
- (a) To turn foreigners out of the country
- (b) To attain freedom from the British rule
- (c) To cooperate with various organizations formed in the country to attain independence
- (d) To agitate for the preservation of the office of Khalifa and better treatment for Turkey, where the British Government imposed harsh terms after the war.

- Ans d

- Which crops were not cultivated in India during the Sultanate period?
- 1. Potato
- 2. Barley
- 3. Sesame
- 4. Maize
- Select your answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 1, 2, 3 (b) 1, 2 (c) 1, 4 (d) 3, 4

- Ans c

- Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?
- 1. Lothal : Ancient dockyard
- 2. Sarnath : First Sermon of Buddha
- 3. Rajgir : Lion capital of Asoka
- 4. Nalanda : Great seat of Buddhist learning
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
Codes:
- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (b) 3 and 4 (c) 1, 2 and 4 (d) 1 and 2

- Ans C

- Which one of the following suggested the reconstitution of the Viceroy's Executive council in which all the portfolios including that of War Members were to be held by the Indian leader?
- (a) Simon Commission
- (b) Shimla Conference
- (c) Cripps Proposal
- (d) Cabinet Mission

- Ans b

- Consider the following statements relating to the famous Muzaffarpur murders (1908)
- 1. The bomb, which was hurled at their carriage of Mrs Pringle and her daughter was actually intended for Mr Kingsford, the District Judge of Muzaffarpur.
- 2. The revolutionaries wanted to kill Mr Kingsford, because he had inflicted severe punishments on Swadeshi activists.
- 3. Khudiram and Prafulla Chaki had to pay the penalty for their action by death.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) All of these

