

# *UPSC MCQ*

## *02*

***R KONDALA***

# Q1

- With reference to the Arab administration in Sindh, the term 'Amil' referred to:
- (a) The translator of Sanskrit texts into Arabic
- (b) The military commander of a frontier garrison
- (c) The executive officer in charge of revenue collection
- (d) The chief judge responsible for interpreting Sharia law

- Ans C
- After the conquest of Sindh, the Arabs established an administrative structure that blended Islamic institutions with local Indian practices. The province was divided into districts (Iqtas/Kuras).
- Meaning of Amil: The term Amil comes from the Arabic root meaning "to work" or "to act." In the context of the early Arab administration in Sindh (and later the Delhi Sultanate and Mughals), an Amil was a revenue officer. The Arabs appointed military officers as Amils to oversee the collection of revenue from the districts.

# Q2

- Consider the following statements regarding Sher Shah Suri.
- Statement I: The silver Rupiya introduced by Sher Shah Suri contained inscriptions in the Devanagari script alongside the Persian legend.
- Statement II: Sher Shah aimed to facilitate trade and ensure the acceptability of the currency among the Hindu mercantile class. 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 but 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

- Ans A
- Statement I is Correct: Numismatic evidence confirms that Sher Shah's silver Rupiya (and some copper Dams) featured the ruler's name in Devanagari script (e.g., "Sri Ser Sahi") in addition to the standard Persian/Arabic inscriptions (Kalima, Name).
- Statement II is Correct: The inclusion of the local script was a deliberate administrative choice. The economy of North India was heavily driven by Hindu merchants and bankers (Sarafs). By using Devanagari, Sher Shah ensured that the coinage was recognizable and trusted by the populace that dominated the marketplace, thereby facilitating trade and integration.
- The economic necessity (Statement II) directly explains the design choice (Statement I).

- Sher Shah Suri, who ruled from 1540-1545, achieved remarkable feats. But do you know why he was called 'Suri'? Explore the story behind the name
- Feb 2026 News Paper

# Q3

- With reference to the land revenue systems in Mughal India, consider the following statements:
- 1. The Dahsala system, introduced by Raja Todar Mal, was a method of collecting revenue based on a decennial settlement where the tax rate was fixed permanently for ten years.
- 2. The Nasaq system was strictly a method of crop-sharing (Batai) used only in the peripheral provinces of Bengal and Kashmir.
- 3. Under the Zabt system, the land was classified into Polaj, Parauti, Chachar, and Banjar based on the continuity of cultivation to ensure fair assessment. How many of the above statements are incorrect?
- (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None

- Ans B
- Statement 1 (Incorrect): The Dahsala system (instituted in 1580) was based on the average produce and prices of the past ten years. However, it was not a "decennial settlement" in the sense of the British Permanent Settlement where the rate was fixed for the next ten years. The "ten years" referred to the data period used for calculation, not the duration of the settlement contract. The rate was derived from the 10year average but was not time-bound like the British decennial settlement.
- Statement 2 (Incorrect): Nasaq was not strictly crop-sharing (Batai). Batai or Galla-Bakhshi is the method where the actual harvest is divided. Nasaq, on the other hand, was a method of estimation or summary assessment based on previous records (Hasti-o-Bud) or inspection. It avoided the need for annual measurement. Furthermore, while common in Bengal, it was also used in other provinces (like Gujarat and Berar) and was not "strictly" limited to the periphery.

- Statement 3 (Correct): The classification of land was the foundation of the Zabt system.
- <https://www.indiatvnews.com/photos/india-akbar-s-navratnas-the-nine-gems-who-shaped-a-golden-era-of-the-mughal-empire-see-rare-pics-akbar-birbal-faizi-tansen-todarmal-2025-07-09-998157>

# Q4

- Consider the following statements regarding the Famine and Irrigation policies of Lord Curzon:
- 1. The McDonnell Commission (1900) was appointed to investigate the causes of the Orissa Famine and recommended the suspension of land revenue collection in all affected districts.
- 2. Curzon's "Moral Strategy" in famine relief focused on the early distribution of advances to peasants for seed and cattle to prevent total economic destitution.
- . The Irrigation Commission of 1901, led by Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff, concluded that private canal construction was the only viable solution to India's drought problem.
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None

- Ans A
- Statement 1 is incorrect; the McDonnell Commission (1900) was appointed following the famine of 1899-1900, not the Orissa Famine (which occurred in 1866). While it suggested remissions, it did not mandate a universal suspension of revenue.
- Statement 2 is correct; the Commission advocated for a "Moral Strategy," which meant intervening early with advances (Takavi loans) for seeds and cattle, sinking of wells, and the appointment of a Famine Commissioner. Curzon sought to ensure that the peasantry did not lose their means of future production.

- Statement 3 is incorrect; the Irrigation Commission of 1901 emphasized the State's role in developing irrigation facilities and recommended a massive expansion of the canal network, particularly in the Punjab and frontier regions, rather than relying solely on private enterprise.
- Curzon viewed irrigation as a vital infrastructure component to ensure revenue stability and avoid the political risks associated with recurring mass starvation.

# Q5

- Consider the following statements regarding the administrative reforms of Lord Curzon:
  1. The Indian Official Secrets Act of 1904 limited the government's power to penalize journalists, restricting its scope only to active military espionage.
  2. Lord Curzon abolished the tribal militia system in the North-West Frontier to ensure a permanent presence of regular British regiments in the border regions.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- Ans D
- Statement 1 is incorrect because the Official Secrets Act of 1904 was significantly broadened rather than limited; it extended to civil matters and empowered the government to penalize the press for criticizing general administration, not just military secrets.
- Statement 2 is incorrect because Curzon actually withdrew regular British troops from the frontier and replaced them with tribal militias (like the Khassadars) trained by British officers. He believed this would be more cost-effective and less provocative to the local tribes. Curzon's frontier policy focused on securing borders through road construction and consolidating territories like the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), created in 1901.

# Q6

- Consider the following statements regarding the Gandhi-Irwin Pact:
- 1. The British government agreed to the immediate and total repeal of the Salt Act of 1882.
- 2. All lands confiscated from the satyagrahis were restored to them, including those that had been auctioned to third parties.
- 3. The government agreed to grant India "Dominion Status" within a fixed timeframe as a precondition for the Second Round Table Conference.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) None of the above

- Ans D
- The Gandhi-Irwin Pact, though significant for its symbolic value, fell short of the core nationalist aspirations in several concrete ways.
- Statement 1 is incorrect because the government did not repeal the Salt Act; it only granted a limited concession allowing people in coastal villages to collect or manufacture salt for their own private use (personal consumption), not for commercial sale.

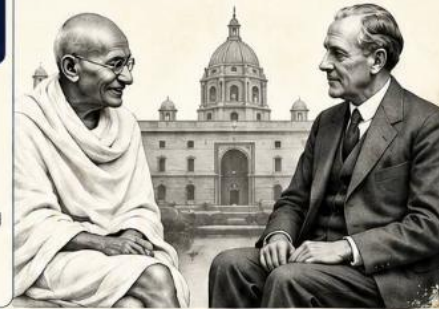
- Statement 2 is incorrect because the agreement for the return of confiscated property was strictly limited to those lands and assets that had not yet been sold to third parties.
- Statement 3 is incorrect because the British government did not grant or even promise Dominion Status within a fixed timeframe; the pact only stipulated that the Congress would participate in the Second Round Table Conference to discuss future "constitutional reforms".

- **Where Gandhi met Irwin: A forgotten chapter from Delhi Gymkhana Club's history**
- MAY2026
- Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Jinnah's farewell party, and Begum Liaquat Ali Khan's bridge games taking place on its premises.

# GANDHI-IRWIN PACT (1931)


## 1 WHAT WAS THE GANDHI-IRWIN PACT?


- An agreement signed between Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin on **5 March 1931**.
- Also known as the **Delhi Pact**.
- It marked a temporary understanding between the British Government and the Indian National Congress.




“  
*This pact was a milestone in India's freedom struggle and a step towards constitutional dialogue.*  
”

## 2 BACKGROUND


 Came during the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930).


 British repression increased after the Salt Satyagraha.


 The British government wanted Congress participation in the Second Round Table Conference.

## 3 MAIN PROVISIONS


### CONGRESS AGREED TO:


 Suspend the Civil Disobedience Movement.


 Participate in the Second Round Table Conference in London.


 Stop boycott movements temporarily.

### BRITISH GOVERNMENT AGREED TO:


 Release political prisoners not involved in violence.


 Return confiscated property of satyagrahis where possible.

 Permit peaceful picketing of liquor and foreign cloth shops.

 Allow Indians to make salt for personal use in coastal areas.


## 4 IMPORTANCE


 First major political agreement between the British and Congress.


 Recognized Congress as an important political force.

 Increased Gandhi's status as a national leader.


## 5 CRITICISM


 Many revolutionaries were disappointed because prisoners involved in violence were not released.


 **Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev** were not saved from execution.

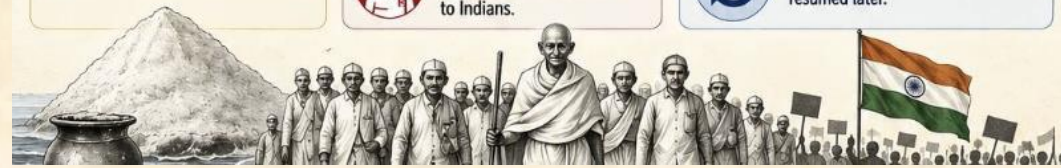
 Some leaders felt the pact gave limited concessions to Indians.

## 6 OUTCOME

 Gandhi attended the Second Round Table Conference (1931).

 The conference failed to achieve major constitutional progress.

 Civil Disobedience Movement resumed later.



# Q7

- Consider the following statements regarding the participation of various social groups in the Civil Disobedience Movement:
  1. Women's participation was arguably the most liberating feature, involving the picketing of liquor shops and foreign cloth dealers.
  2. The business community provided significant financial support, with G.D. Birla actively persuading merchants to boycott foreign textiles.
  3. The movement saw the first-ever organized participation of the industrial working class on a panIndia scale.
- How many of the above statements are correct?
- (a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None

- Ans B
- Statements 1 and 2 are correct, while Statement 3 is incorrect.
- Women's participation was one of the most liberating and transformative aspects of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- Large numbers of women came out of their homes to participate in public political action, especially through picketing liquor shops and foreign cloth dealers, breaking salt laws, and courting arrest.

- The business community, particularly Indian industrialists and merchants, also played an important supportive role.
- Figures such as G.D. Birla actively encouraged traders to boycott foreign textiles and promote swadeshi goods.
- However, the claim that the movement saw the first-ever organized participation of the industrial working class on a pan-India scale is incorrect.

# Q8

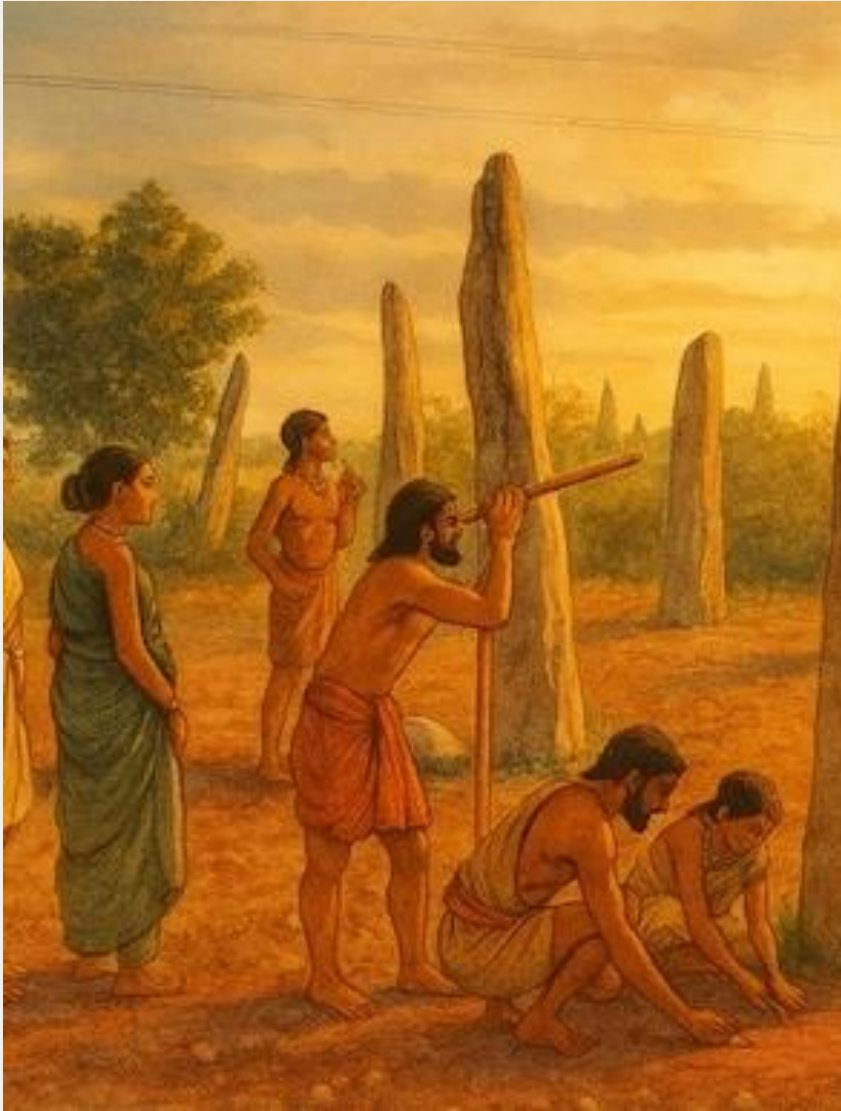
- With reference to the numismatics of the Vijayanagara Empire, consider the following statements:
- 1. The empire issued a standardized gold currency known as the Pagoda or Varaha, which typically bore images of Hindu deities or the boar emblem.
- 2. The inscriptions on the coins were restricted to the Nagari script to maintain a uniform administrative identity across the empire.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- Ans a
- Statement 1 is correct: The Vijayanagara Empire (1336–1646 CE) developed a highly sophisticated monetary system. The gold Pagoda, also referred to as the Varaha, was the highest denomination. These coins prominently featured the boar (Varaha), an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and the dynastic emblem, as well as images of deities like Shiva-Parvati, Vishnu-Lakshmi, and Balakrishna.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The empire was polyglot and multi-cultural. Consequently, coin inscriptions featured Devanagari (Nagari), Kannada, Telugu, and Tamil scripts, reflecting the linguistic diversity of its subjects rather than being restricted to one script.

# Q9

- With reference to the "Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs," which of the following is correct?
- (a) They were primarily used as markers for the territorial boundaries of the Kakatiya dynasty.
- (b) They represent one of India's most expansive and well-preserved megalithic astronomical observatories.
- (c) The site is located in the Bastar region and is associated with the Ghotul social system.
- (d) The menhirs are composed of locally carved ivory and teak, dating back to the 18th century.

- Ans B
- The Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs are significant not for medieval political boundaries or ethnographic institutions, but for their prehistoric scientific and ritual importance.
- Archaeological and archaeo-astronomical studies indicate that the menhirs are deliberately arranged in large alignments that correspond to solar movements, particularly the equinoxes and solstices.
- This suggests their use as an astronomical observatory by megalithic communities to track seasonal cycles, agricultural timing, and ritual calendars.



- DEC 2025 - Dating back 3,500 years, the 'upright stones' of Mudumal, which made it to UNESCO's tentative list.
- The Mudumal megalithic menhirs in Telangana, dating back 3,500–4,000 years, served as astronomical markers.
- A part of India's Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, they reveal how Bronze Age communities observed the sky, tracked the sun, and used seasonal calendars, showing sophisticated ancient Indian knowledge applied to astronomy, rituals, and navigation long before modern instruments.

# Q10

- Which of the following statements is correct regarding the "Manki-Munda" system in the Kolhan region?
- (a) It is a centralized administrative system introduced by the Qutb Shahi dynasty to manage tribal land records.
- (b) It is a hereditary self-governance framework where the Manki is the head of a village and the Munda oversees a group of villages.
- (c) It is an ancient decentralised governance system of the Ho tribe, later co-opted by the British through Wilkinson's Rules.
- (d) The system was abolished in 2021 and replaced by the Nyaya Panchayat system under the Jharkhand State Act.

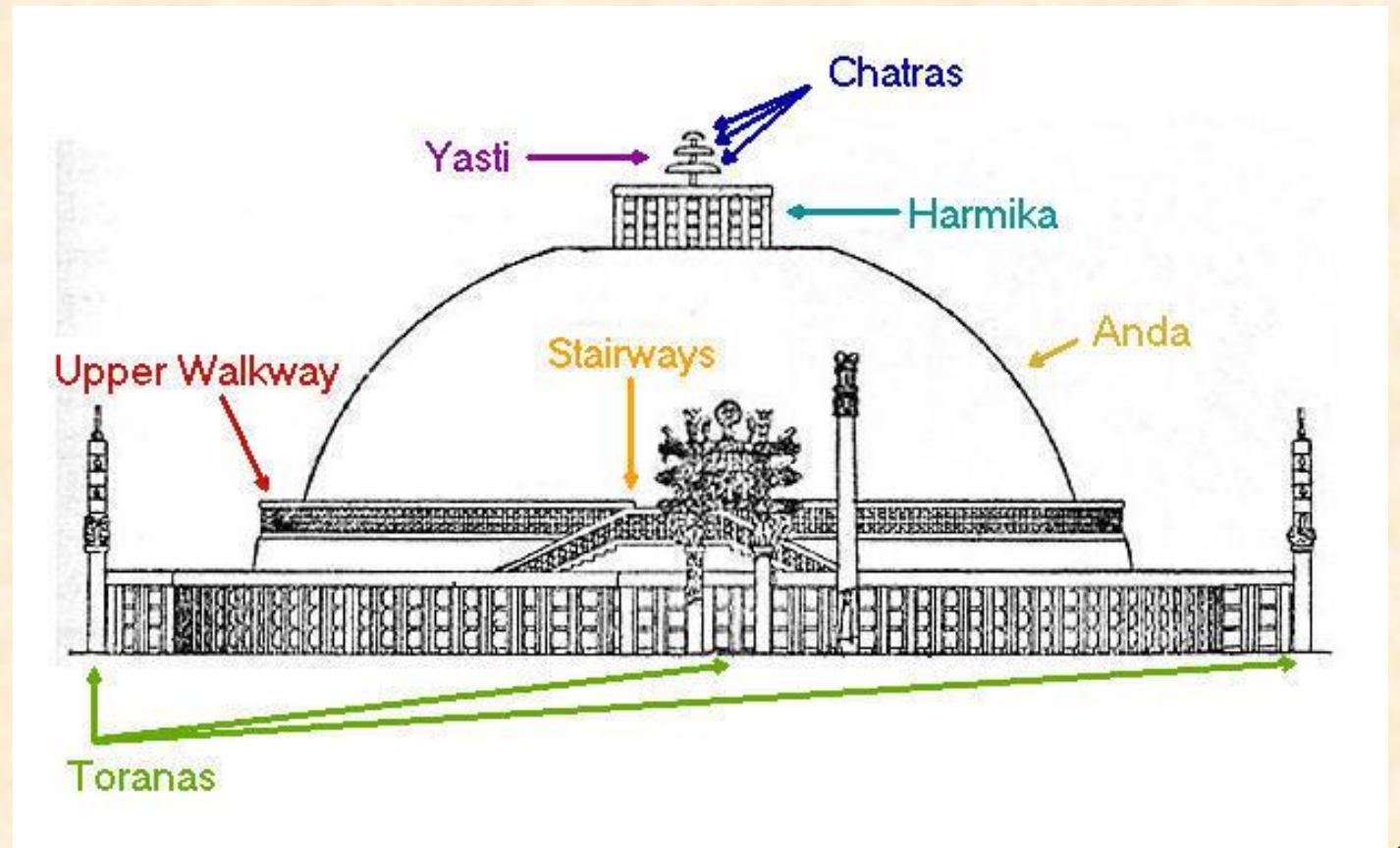
- Ans C
- The Manki-Munda system is a centuries-old self-governance framework of the Ho adivasi community in Jharkhand. Each village is led by a Munda (headman), and a group of 8–15 villages (a pidh) is overseen by a Manki.
- In 1837, the British official Captain Thomas Wilkinson codified this into Wilkinson's Rules, recognizing the tribal heads and integrating them into the colonial administration for revenue and order. Post-independence, the system has continued to operate as customary law because no formal civil alternative was enacted.

- SEPT 2025 –
- **Recently, adivasis of the Ho tribe in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum protested against the Deputy Commissioner, alleging interference in their traditional Manki-Munda self-governance system after the removal of village heads (Mundas).**
  - For centuries, the Ho tribe of Jharkhand's Kolhan region followed a decentralised governance system rooted in social and political responsibilities.
  - Each village was led by a Munda, the hereditary village head who resolved local disputes.
  - Groups of 8–15 villages, known as a pidh, were overseen by a Manki, who handled cases unresolved at the village level.



- Which one of the following statements about Buddhist Stupas in India is not correct?
- (a) Ashoka played an important role in popularizing the Stupa cult.
- (b) They were repositories of relics of Buddha and other monks.
- (c) They were located in rural areas.
- (d) They were located close to trade routes.

- Ans d



- Read the following statement:
- 1. The British colonial policy in India was shaped in the context of expansionist policy of Britain.
- 2. The British conquest of Spain during the times of the Tudors helped shape the British image of themselves as Imperialists
- 3. The British claimed they had a god given responsibility to inhabit and reform so barbarous a nation.
- 4. The tropical climate of India was seen as reason for 'Eastern Corruption'.
- Choose the code for correct statements:
- (a) 1 & 3 (b) 2 & 4 (c) 1, 2, & 3 (d) all of them

- Ans D

- Assertion (A): Revolution in the character of Ashoka came after the Kalinga war.
- Reason (R): After the war, he became a lover of Ahimsa and a devoted preacher of Buddhism.
- (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 a

- Match the following: List I List II
- A. Madan Mohan Malviya 1. Gadar Movement
- B. Sohan Singh Bhakna 2. Self-respect movement
- C. Chidambaram Pillai 3. Hindu Mahasabha
- D. S. Rajagopalachari 4. Swadeshi System  
Navigation Company 5. Vedaranyan Salt  
Satyagraha
- Codes:
- A B C D
- (a) 2 1 5 3
- (b) 3 1 4 5
- (c) 3 2 1 4
- (d) 4 5 2 1.

- Ans b

- Consider the following passage and identify the three tribal principalities referred to there, in using the codes given below In the early history of the far South in India, three tribal principalities are mentioned in Ashokan inscriptions of the 3rd century BC and in Kharavela inscription of the 1st century BC.
- (a) Vakatakas, Cholas and Satvahanas
- (b) Cholas, Pandyas and Cheras
- (c) Ikshvakus, Vakatakas and Pandyas
- (d) Pallavas, Cholas and Pandyas

- Ans b

- Match the columns :
- A. Upanishads : 1. World's oldest scriptures
- B. Samaveda : 2. Magical chants
- C. Rigveda : 3. Mysterious doctrine
- D. Atharvaveda : 4. Ritual
- Select the correct answer from the codes given below :
- A B C D
- (a) 4 3 2 1
- (b) 3 4 1 2
- (c) 1 2 3 4
- (d) 4 2 1 3

- Ans b

- Which portfolio was held by Dr. Rajendra Prasad in the Interim Government formed in the year 1946?
- (a) Defence
- (b) External Affairs and Commonwealth
- (c) Food and Agriculture
- (d) None

- Ans c

- Who among the following was elected as the President of All India Khilafat Conference met at Delhi in 1919?
- (a) Motilal Nehru
- (b) Mahatma Gandhi
- (c) M A Jinnah
- (d) Shaukat Ali

- Ans b

- Due to which of the following factors, the Industrial Revolution took place in England in the eighteenth century?
- 1. The discovery of coal and iron deposits
- 2. The discovery of steam power
- 3. The introduction of railways
- 4. The regular supply of raw materials
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

- Ans d

- Mughals found it hard to subdue the Deccani kingdoms, these were governed by different dynasties:
- 1. Ahmednagar by Qutb Shahi
- 2. Bijapur by Nizam Shahi
- 3. Golconda by Adil Shah
- 4. Berar by Imad Shahi
- Select the code for correct statements:
- (a) Only 1
- (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) Only 4

- Ans d

- Which ancient kings patronised Jainism?
- 1. Srenika Bimbisara
- 2. Chandragupta Maurya
- 3. Kharavela
- Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 2 and 3

- Ans d

- Match the following: List I (Organization) List II (Person)
- A. Abhinav Bharat 1. Lala Hardayal
- B. Anushilan Samiti 2. Bhagat Singh
- C. Ghadar Party 3. V. K. Savarkar
- D. Vishwa Bharati 4. Rabindranath Tagore
- Codes:
- A B C D
- (a) 1 2 3 4
- (b) 2 3 4 1
- (c) 3 2 1 4
- (d) 4 1 2 3.

- Ans C



- Which of the following are true with regard to Pulakesin II?
- 1. His brother Kubja-Vishnuvardhana founded the kingdom of Chalukyas of Vengi.
- 2. The Aihole inscription in sanskrit is a eulogy written for him by the poet Ravikirti.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- Ans c

- Match the following List I List II (Person) (Satyagraha)
- A. Raj Kumar Shukla 1. Kheda Satyagraha
- B. Ambalal Sarabhai 2. Ahmedabad Mill Strike
- C. Indulal Yagnik 3. Bardoli Satyagraha
- D. Vallabhbhai Patel 4. Champaran Satyagraha
- Codes :
- A B C D
- (a) 3 1 2 4
- (b) 4 1 2 3
- (c) 4 2 1 3
- (d) 3 2 1 4

- Ans c

- Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched?
- (a) Pitt's India Act : Warren Hastings
- (b) Doctrine of Lapse : Dalhousie
- (c) Vernacular Press Act : Curzon
- (d) Ilbert Bill : Ripon

- Ans c