

BASED ON THE LATEST PATTERN

# RAILWAY

## GENERAL AWARENESS



### USEFUL FOR

RRB ALP/Technician, RRB NTPC, RRB Group D, RRB JE  
& All Other Railway Exams

### KEY FEATURES

- Units Covered  
Ancient History, Medieval History, Modern History  
Geography, Polity, Economy, Static GK, Computer
- Simplified Language for  
Better Conceptual Understanding



**Comprehensive  
Coverage**  
of Latest Syllabus



**PYPs & MCQs**  
Chapter-wise



**Previous Year  
Questions** (from  
2016 & onwards)

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# ANCIENT HISTORY

## STONE AGE & INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

1. The most significant feature of Indus Valley civilization was

- A. Barter system
- B. Local transport system
- C. Buildings made of brick
- D. Administrative system

[RRB NTPC 2016]

- A) A
- B) B
- C) C
- D) D

2. Dholavira, an archaeological site, is associated with which period?

- A. Gupta period
- B. Magadha period
- C. Indus Valley Civilization
- D. Chalukya period

[RRB NTPC 2016]

- A) B
- B) A
- C) D
- D) C

3. The Indus Valley Civilization belonged to the \_\_\_\_\_.

[RRB NTPC 2017]

- A) Bronze Age
- B) Stone Age
- C) Gold Age
- D) None of the above

4. The Harappan Civilization flourished around 2500 BC in what we call today \_\_\_\_\_.

[RRB NTPC 2017]

- A) Pakistan and Afghanistan
- B) Western India and Pakistan
- C) Afghanistan and Western India
- D) India and China

5. In which of the following locations was 'Nataraja', a stone male dancing figure discovered?

[RRB NTPC 2021]

- A) Rangpur
- B) Lothal
- C) Mohenjo-daro
- D) Harappa

6. Which of the following sites is NOT a part of the Indus Valley Civilization?

[RRB NTPC 2021]

- A) Harappa
- B) Uruk
- C) Mohenjo Daro
- D) Lothal

7. Which one of the following animals was frequently seen on the seals of the Harappan Civilisation?

[RRB NTPC 2021]

- A) Fox
- B) Bull
- C) Lion
- D) Deer

8. The first site discovered at the Indus Valley Civilisation is:

- A) Lothal
- B) Mohenjo-Daro
- C) Kalibangan
- D) Harappa

9. Which city from the Harappan Civilization was almost exclusively devoted to crafting production including bead making, shell cutting, metalworking, seal making and weight make?

[RRB NTPC 2021]

- A) Harappa
- B) Nageshwar
- C) Mohenjo Daro
- D) Chanhudaro

10. During the Indus Valley Period, from where were the shells procured for craft production?

[RRB NTPC 2022]

- A) Shortughai
- B) Ropar
- C) Jaipur
- D) Nageshwar

11. Most of the standard Harappan seals were made of \_\_\_\_\_, a kind of soft stone that was square in shape with a 2 × 2 dimension and was used for commercial purposes.

[RRB NTPC 2022]

- A) Steatite
- B) Golden rutile
- C) Selenite
- D) Rhodonite

12. Which of the following sites of Indus Valley Civilization is located in Punjab (India)?

[RRB NTPC 2022]

- A) Banawali
- B) Balu
- C) Kot Diji
- D) Ropar

13. In which year was the Indus Valley Civilization discovered?

- A) 1921
- B) 1933
- C) 1917
- D) 1941

14. Which site of Harappa shows the earliest evidence of earthquake?

- A) Harappa
- B) Dholavira
- C) Mohenjodaro
- D) Kalibangan

15. Mehrgarh, the earliest Neolithic site in Pakistan, is located in the valley of which river ?

- A) Sindhu
- B) Ravi
- C) Sarasvati
- D) Bolan

16. In which of the sites the overlap between Late Harappan and Ochre Coloured Pottery phase can be traced?

- A) Ahichchhatra and Jhinjhana
- B) Atranjikhera and Noh
- C) Saipai and Atranjikhera
- D) Bargaon and Ambakheri

17. Which one of the following agency undertook the excavation work of Kalibangan?

- A) Melbourne University of Australia
- B) The Rajasthan Department of Archaeology and Museums, Jaipur
- C) The Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi
- D) Deccan College, Pune

18. The excavation work of Ahar was accomplished under whose leadership?

- A) H.D. Sankalia
- B) B.B. Lal
- C) V.N. Misra
- D) V.S. Wakankar

19. Which of the following part of Harappan cities was known as citadel?

- A) North
- B) East
- C) West
- D) South

20. The Ancient city of Harappa was built on the bank of which river?

- A) Ravi
- B) Satluj
- C) Kosi
- D) Meera

21. Which of the following Indus Valley civilization sites is not in India?

- A) Kalibangan
- B) Rakigarhi
- C) Lothal
- D) Mohenjo-Daro

22. The Harappans procured Lapis Lazuli, a blue stone from :

- A) Nageshwar
- B) Shortughai
- C) Balakot
- D) Lothal

23. Canal remains have been uncovered at which Harappan site?

- A) Kalibangan
- B) Shortughai
- C) Chanhudaro
- D) Dholavira

24. Which of the following people discovered Mohenjo-Daro?

- A) John Marshall                      B) James Prinsep  
C) Archibald Carleyle                D) R. D. Banerjee

25. The Harappan city of Dholavira was named the \_\_\_\_\_ Indian site on UNESCO's World Heritage list.

- A) 38<sup>th</sup>                                      B) 39<sup>th</sup>  
C) 37<sup>th</sup>                                      D) 40<sup>th</sup>

26. Mesolithic period is marked by which of the following changes?

- A) Development of grasslands      B) Development of semi-arid zones  
C) Massive deforestation            D) Colder temperature on the planet

27. What is the most significant feature of the Indus Valley Civilization?

- A) Burnt brick buildings              B) First true arches  
C) Buildings of worship                D) Art and architecture

- A) Atharva Veda                              B) Rig Veda  
C) Yajur Veda                                D) Som Veda

37. Out of the \_\_\_\_\_ Upanishads, \_\_\_\_\_ Upanishads are considered to be the main - [RRB Group D 2018]

- A) 108, 11                                    B) 116, 22  
C) 100, 12                                    D) 99, 10

38. Which is the most accepted date of the composition of the Rig Veda?

- A) 1000 BC                                    B) 1500 BC  
C) 1500 BC to 1000 BC                D) About 4500 BC

39. What was the root cause of the religious movements in India during the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.?

- A) Sacrifice of cattle on a large scale due to Vedic practices.      B) Expansion of new agriculture economy in eastern India.  
C) Social conflict between the Brahmans and Kshatriyas.      D) Urban revolution and increasing internal and external trade.

40. Mahishmati city was situated in which Mahajanapada?

- A) Vatsa                                        B) Matsya  
C) Awanti                                      D) Asmaka

41. Which of the following Mahajanapadas was situated on the banks of river Godavari?

- A) Kombojas                                B) Vatsa  
C) Awanti                                      D) Asmaka

42. Which Mahajanapada was a confederation of 8 republican clans?

- A) Vajji                                        B) Vatsa  
C) Magadha                                D) Malla

43. By what name was the river Chenab known during the Vedic period?

- A) Purushni                                B) Shutudri  
C) Vitasta                                    D) Askini

44. What is the correct sequence of Mahajanapadas from west to east?

- A) Avanti, Vatsa, Chedi, Anga, Magadha      B) Chedi, Vatsa, Avanti, Magadha, Anga  
C) Avanti, Chedi, Vatsa, Magadha, Anga      D) Vatsa, Avanti, Anga, Chedi, Magadha

45. Which of the following statements is not correct regarding the Smriti Literature?

- A) Manusmriti was compiled between c. 200 BCE and 200 CE.      B) The paternal estate was to be divided equally amongst sons after the death of the parents, with a special share for the eldest.  
C) Manusmriti warned women against hoarding family property, or even their own valuables, without the husband's permission.      D) Issues of ownership have not been talked about in ancient texts like Dharmasutras, and Dharmashastras.

46. 'Mridhara-Vacha' mentioned in Rig-Veda refers to

- A) One who performs sacrifices      B) One who does not perform sacrifices  
C) One who worships nature            D) One who worships stone

47. Tax which kings used to collect from the people in Vedic period was called \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Kara                                        B) Varman  
C) Bali                                        D) Vidatha

48. Which of the following rivers is named only once in Rigveda?

## VEDIC AGE & RISE OF MAHAJANAPADA

28. What does "Satyameva Jayate" mean?

- A. "Truth alone triumphs"  
B. "True Faith is Rare"  
C. "Truth is Divine"  
D. "Truth is a Treasure"

[RRB NTPC 2016]

- A) C    B) B  
C) A    D) D

29. Which of the following Vedas contains treatment for diseases?

- A) Yajurved                                    B) Rigved  
C) Samaved                                    D) Atharvaved

30. What does the term 'Yajur' in 'Yajur Veda' mean?

- A) Life                                        B) Nature  
C) Sacrifice                                D) Truth

[RRB NTPC 2017]

31. Dhanurveda is the upveda of the Yajurveda. It deals with:

- A) art of warfare                              B) architecture  
C) medicine                                    D) art and music

[RRB NTPC 2021]

32. The Rig Veda consists of 1028 hymns, organised into ten books known as \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) Mandalas                                B) Padapātha  
C) Anudāta                                D) Sūktas

[RRB NTPC 2022]

33. Which of the following Vedas is also called "Book of Songs", "Veda of Mantras" or "Yoga of Songs"?

- A) Yajurveda                                B) Rigveda  
C) Atharvaveda                              D) Samveda

[RRB Group D 2022]

34. Which of the following Veda mentions about music?

- A) Atharvana Veda                        B) Rigveda  
C) Yajurveda                                D) Samaveda

35. Which of the following Veda mentions about magical rituals and charms?

- A) Samaveda                                B) Yajurveda  
C) Atharva Veda                              D) Rigveda

36. Which of these is NOT a Veda? [RRB Group D 2018]

- A) Ganga  
C) Saraswati
- B) Indus  
D) Jhelum
- 49.** Which ancient Mahajanapada had its capital at Taxila?  
A) Anga  
C) Magadha
- B) Kasi  
D) Gandhar
- 50.** Which of the following statements is incorrect?  
A) The oldest Veda is the Rigveda, composed about 3500 years ago.  
C) The Rigveda was read rather than recited and heard.
- B) 'Matr' is a Sanskrit term.  
D) Some of the hymns in the Rigveda are in the form of dialogues.
- 51.** In Vedic literature, the deity Indra, often referred to as Purandara. What does the term "Purandara" mean?  
A) The Creator of Universe  
C) The Controller of Time
- B) The Bringer of Rain  
D) The Destroyer of Forts
- 52.** Which of the following female scholar was mentioned in Upanishad?  
A) Kumara devi  
C) Gargi
- B) Gautami Balashri  
D) None of the above
- 53.** With reference to the Sixteen Mahajanapadas, which among the following was NOT a capital city? [RRB NTPC 2022]  
A) Ujjain  
C) Sravasti
- B) Avanti  
D) Kausambi
- 54.** Udayin shifted the capital of Magadha from \_\_\_\_\_ to Patliputra. [RRB NTPC 2021]  
A) Sarnath  
C) Kaushambi
- B) Rajagrih  
D) Taxila
- 55.** Who was the Physician of Magadh ruler Bimbisara?  
A) Vijayasena  
C) Manu
- B) Jeevaka  
D) Shilabhadra

## BUDDHISM & JAINISM

- 56.** What is the meaning of "Mahayana" in Sanskrit?  
A) Small Vehicle  
C) Fast Path
- B) Great Vehicle  
D) Great Sacrifice
- 57.** According to Buddhist traditions, who was Charioteer of Buddha?  
A) Channa  
C) Devdatta
- B) Kanthaka  
D) Chunda Hide
- 58.** At which of the following Buddhist sites women were ordained into the Sangha for the first time?  
A) Sarnath  
C) Shravasti
- B) Vaishali  
D) Rajgir
- 59.** Mahavira's teachings were compiled in \_\_\_\_\_, called Angas. They were written in Prakrit language.  
A) 13 sections  
C) 15 sections
- B) 14 sections  
D) 12 sections
- 60.** Mahavir Swami became known as "Jina", what does "Jina" mean?  
A) The Conqueror  
C) The God
- B) The great soul  
D) Non-violent
- 61.** Who among the following was contemporary of Gautam Buddha?  
A) Nagarjuna  
C) Kautilya
- B) Kanishka  
D) Mahavir
- 62.** Where is Central Institute of Buddhist Studies situated?  
A) Leh  
C) Almora
- B) Kullu  
D) Gangtok
- 63.** At which of the following places did the Buddhist event known as 'Dhammachakkapavattan' take place?  
A) Lumbini  
C) Bodh Gaya
- B) Kushinagar  
D) Sarnath
- 64.** What is considered the most important fundamental principle of Jainism?  
A) Karma  
C) Dispassion
- B) Non-violence  
D) More than one of the above
- 65.** The ultimate goal of education in Jainism is  
A) Charity  
C) Liberation
- B) Pity and renunciation  
D) Non-violence
- 66.** What does the 'Harmika' represent in the Buddhist Stupa?  
A) Abode of the gods  
C) Separation of the sacred from the secular world
- B) Open walkway  
D) Tathagata's Relics
- 67.** What is 'Pradakshina-path' in the structure of Stupa?  
A) Circular path  
C) Richly carved entrance
- B) Balcony structure  
D) Semicircular mound
- 68.** Who is the author of a unique Buddhist text, a section of the Sutta Pitaka and a collection of verses that throws light on the social and spiritual experiences of women?  
A) Brahman  
C) Varundata
- B) Bhikkhunis  
D) Devta
- 69.** The Buddha belonged to a small gana known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) Sakya gana  
C) Kuru gana
- B) Avanti Gana  
D) Panchal gana
- 70.** Which of the following terms is the most appropriate to describe the Buddha?  
A) Theist  
C) Agnostic
- B) Atheist  
D) Materialist
- 71.** Upasakadasah is a text belongs to :  
A) Shaivism  
C) Jainism
- B) Vaishnavism  
D) Buddhism
- 72.** Who among the following were referred to as the 'Theris' in ancient India?  
A) Respected women  
C) Women denied the Bhikkhuni status
- B) Elder nuns in Buddhism  
D) Women expelled from the Buddhist Sangha
- 73.** Which of the following place is world famous for painting of the life of the Tathagata Lord Gautam Buddha ?  
A) Verul Caves  
C) Elephanta Caves
- B) Ajanta Caves  
D) Aurangabad Caves
- 74.** Who among the following Jain Tirthankar attained nirvana at Mandar hill?  
A) Vasupujya  
C) Parshvanatha
- B) Mahavira  
D) Rishabhanatha
- 75.** Who among the Mauryan ruler pioneered the propagation of Buddhism?  
A) Samparti  
C) Ashoka
- B) Devavarman  
D) Bindusara
- 76.** At the age of \_\_\_\_\_, Mahavira left home and went to live in a forest in search of enlightenment.  
A) thirty-two  
C) twenty-eight
- B) thirty  
D) twenty-nine
- 77.** Where was Mahavir Swami born?

- A) Kundgram                      B) Kapilvastu  
C) Nalanda                         D) Pataliputra
- 78.** What was the childhood name of Mahatma Buddha?  
A) Vinay                            B) Rahul  
C) Siddhartha                     D) Gautam
- 79.** According to which religion, nirvana or salvation depends on: 1. Right Belief, 2. Right Knowledge and 3. Right Action?  
A) Shaivism                        B) Buddhism  
C) Jainism                         D) Hinduism
- 80.** Xuan Zang and other pilgrims spent time studying in Nalanda, the most famous Buddhist monastery, located in which of the following Indian state?  
A) Odisha                         B) Bengal  
C) Bihar                             D) Sikkim
- 81.** 'Alara Kalama' was the first guru of?  
A) Gautam Buddha                B) Mahavira  
C) Rishabhanatha                D) Parshvanatha
- 82.** "Ranakpur" temple is basically-  
A) Buddhist                        B) Jain  
C) Shiv                               D) Vishnu
- 83.** According to the Hindu Calendar, Buddha Purnima falls on the full moon day of \_\_\_\_\_. [RRB Group D 2022]  
A) Chaitra                         B) Ashadha  
C) Vaishakha                     D) Magha
- 84.** Kangyur and Tengyur are:  
A) Buddhist literature            B) Jain Agamas  
C) Puranic historical works      D) Collection of oral history of ancient China
- 85.** Which of the following was not a centre of Jainism during the early medieval period?  
A) Ellora                            B) Nagapattanam  
C) Dilwara                         D) Shravanabelagola
- 86.** Which of the following kings convened the fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir? [RRB NTPC 2021]  
A) Chandragupta Maurya        B) Bimbisara  
C) Kanishka                        D) Ajatashatru
- 87.** Name the Buddhist text that comprises rules for monks. [RRB NTPC 2021]  
A) Tipitaka                         B) Vinaya Pitaka  
C) Sutta Pitaka                    D) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- 88.** Jataka tales are related to \_\_\_\_\_. [RRB NTPC 2020]  
A) Buddhism                        B) Sikhism  
C) Hinduism                        D) Jainism
- 89.** Lord Mahavira's original name is \_\_\_\_\_. [RRB NTPC 2020]  
A) Ananda                         B) Siddhartha  
C) Sariputta                        D) Vardhamana
- 90.** Buddha delivered his first sermon which is called \_\_\_\_\_, at Sarnath to his five disciples. [RRB NTPC 2022]  
A) Niranjana                        B) Mahabhinishkramana  
C) Maha parinirvana            D) Dharmachakra Pravartana
- 91.** In Vaishali, the second Buddhist council was organized by \_\_\_\_\_. [RRB NTPC 2022]  
A) shaven                         B) Anurudh  
C) sunidha                         D) kalashoka
- 92.** Soniji ki Nasiya Temple in Ajmer built in the 19th century is dedicated to \_\_\_\_\_. [RRB NTPC 2022]  
A) Lord Ajitnath                    B) Lord Rishabhdev  
C) Lord Mahavir                    D) Lord Chandraprabh
- 93.** Out of the three Pitakas, the Abhidhamma Pitaka deals with \_\_\_\_\_. [RRB NTPC 2022]  
A) Stories on Sarnath Pillar      B) Philosophical matters  
C) Rules for those who joined the sangha      D) Buddha's teachings
- 94.** The foundation of Buddhism are the \_\_\_\_\_ noble truths and the \_\_\_\_\_ fold path. [RRB Group D 2018]  
A) six, four                        B) eight, six  
C) two, eight                       D) four, eight
- 95.** What does "Triratna" mean in Buddhism?  
A) Tripitaka                        B) Buddha, Dhamma (dharma), Sangha  
C) Satya, Ahimsa, Karuna        D) Sheel, Samadhi, Sangha
- 96.** Under which tree did Queen Mayadevi give birth to Gautam Buddha? [RRB Group D 2018]  
A) Ashoka tree                     B) Peepal tree  
C) Mango tree                     D) Sal tree
- 97.** The rise of Jainism and Buddhism saw religious unrest in India in the \_\_\_\_\_ century BC. [RRB Group D 2018]  
A) 5th                                B) 4th  
C) 6th                                D) 7th
- 98.** Which one of the following is not among the Four Noble Truths of Lord Buddha? [RRB Group D 2018]  
A) The world is the home of sorrows      B) Desire is the cause of suffering  
C) If desires are not relieved, then misery can be avoided      D) This can be done by following the eight fold path
- 99.** The 'Tripitaka' is a holy book of which religion from following \_\_\_\_\_. [RRB Group D 2022]  
A) Buddhism                        B) Zoroastrianism  
C) Jainism                         D) Sikhism
- 100.** One of the foundations of Buddhism is the eight-fold path or Ashtangika Marga. Which among the following is not an Ashtangika Marga?  
A) Right Speech                    B) Right Control  
C) Right Effort                    D) Right Thoughts
- 101.** The first and last Tirthankaras; Rishabhanatha and Mahavira had the symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ respectively.  
A) bull and elephant              B) lion and serpent  
C) moon and fish                  D) bull and lion
- 102.** Towards the close of Chandragupta Maurya's rule, a terrible famine broke out in South Bihar. \_\_\_\_\_ and his disciples migrated to Sravanabelgola in Karnataka.  
A) Jambu                            B) Sthulabhadra  
C) Bhadrabahu                    D) Indrabhuti
- 103.** Which of the following is not a Buddhist literary text?  
A) Milinda panha                  B) Abhidharmamoksha  
C) Uvasaggaharam Stotra        D) Mahavamsa
- 104.** Which of the following statements regarding Jainism is/are correct?  
1. The word 'Jaina' is derived from the term 'Jina', meaning conqueror.  
2. Vardhamana Mahavira was the first Tirthankara of the Jains.  
A) 1 only                            B) 2 only  
C) Both 1 and 2                  D) Neither 1 nor 2
- 105.** With which one of the following is the classic 'Jivaka Chintamani' associated?

- A) Jainism  
C) Buddhism
- B) Hinduism  
D) Sikhism
- 106.** The Buddhist text Visuddhimagga was written by:  
A) Nagasena  
C) Nagarjuna
- B) Buddhaghosha  
D) Asvaghosha
- 107.** Which personality is mentioned in the Buddhist text 'Milinda Panha'?  
A) Nagasena  
C) Chanakya
- B) Kalidas  
D) Hemachandra
- 108.** In whose reign was the Second Buddhist Council held?  
A) Ajatshatru  
C) Kalashok
- B) Ashoka  
D) Kanishka
- 109.** Which of the following Jain Tirthankar attained nirvana at Mandar hill?  
A) 9th Tirthankar  
C) 13th Tirthankar
- B) 12th Tirthankar  
D) 15th Tirthankar
- 110.** What is not true in relation to Vardhamana Mahavir?  
A) He is considered to be 24th and last Tirthankara  
C) He did not marry in his lifetime.
- B) His mother was sister of Licchavi's king Chetaka  
D) He left his body in 527 BCE at Pavapuri near Patna
- 111.** Priyadarshana who was the daughter of Mahavira was married to whom?  
A) Bimbisara  
C) Jamali
- B) Indrabhuti Gautama  
D) Mauryaputra
- 112.** At which of the following caves of ancient Magadha, the first Buddhist Council was held?  
A) Son Bhandar Cave  
C) Lomas Rishi Cave
- B) Saptaparni Cave  
D) Sudama Cave
- 113.** Ubbiri was a  
A) a Jaina nun  
C) a Vaishnav saint
- B) a Buddhist nun  
D) a Saiva saint
- 114.** The first Jain assembly was organized at -  
A) Patliputra  
C) Rajgrih
- B) Vaishali  
D) Vallavi

## MAURYAN & POST MAURYAN EMPIRE

- 115.** The earliest deciphered epigraphy of Ashoka's inscription in India was written in which script? [RRB NTPC 2021]  
A) Kharoshthi  
C) Harappan
- B) Devnagri  
D) Brahmi
- 116.** Sanchi Stupa is situated near the city of \_\_\_\_\_. [RRB NTPC 2021]  
A) Bhopal  
C) Jhansi
- B) Gwalior  
D) Agra
- 117.** The National Emblem of India is an adaptation of the Lion Capital built by which emperor? [RRB NTPC 2017]  
A) Ashoka  
C) Chandragupta
- B) Akbar  
D) Ajatasatru
- 118.** Most Ashokan inscriptions were in the \_\_\_\_\_ language while those in the northwest of the subcontinent were in Aramaic and Greek. [RRB NTPC 2022]  
A) Pali  
C) Prakrit
- B) Sanskrit  
D) Tamil
- 119.** Who was the grandfather of King Ashoka? [RRB NTPC 2022]

- A) Dashratha  
C) Chandragupta Maurya
- B) Vitashoka  
D) Bindusara
- 120.** Which Mauryan emperor had his inscriptions engraved on rocks and pillars during his reign from c. 272/268-231 BCE? [RRB NTPC 2022]  
A) Ashoka  
C) Chandragupta Maurya
- B) Bindusara  
D) Brihadratha
- 121.** With reference to the distribution of Asokan inscriptions, which among the following sites is in the modern state of Gujarat? [RRB NTPC 2022]  
A) Girnar  
C) Shishupalgarh
- B) Kalsi  
D) Sannati
- 122.** During the Mauryan reign which of the following provinces was considered as the Gold mine hub in Karnataka? [RRB NTPC 2022]  
A) Tosali  
C) Taxila
- B) Ujjayini  
D) Suvarnagiri
- 123.** Which of the following was the capital of Magadh for several years before it was shifted to Pataliputra? [RRB NTPC 2022]  
A) Patna  
C) Nalanda
- B) Gaya  
D) Rajgriha
- 124.** Megasthenes was an ambassador who was sent to the court of Chandragupta Maurya by the \_\_\_\_\_ ruler named Seleucus Nicator. [RRB NTPC 2022]  
A) Greek  
C) Chinese
- B) Arab  
D) Persian
- 125.** King Ashoka was the son of \_\_\_\_\_ who belonged to the Maurya dynasty. [RRB Group D 2018]  
A) Bimbisara  
C) Chandragupta II
- B) Chandragupta Maurya  
D) Bindusara
- 126.** Literary sources from the Mauryan period include Indica and \_\_\_\_\_. [RRB Group D 2018]  
A) Rock Inscriptions  
C) Coins
- B) Arthshastra  
D) Pillar inscription
- 127.** Emperor Ashoka propagated the ideals of Buddhism. He sent missionaries to distant places so that people could inspire their lives by the teachings of Lord Buddha. His son \_\_\_\_\_ and daughter \_\_\_\_\_ were also included in these missionaries. [RRB Group D 2018]  
A) Manoj and Sanjana  
C) Mahendra and Sanghamitra
- B) Mahesh and Sangeeta  
D) Mandeep and Suhasana
- 128.** Which of the following was a provincial capital under the rule of Ashoka?  
I. Taxila  
II. Ujjain  
A) Neither I nor II  
C) Both I and II
- B) Only II  
D) Only I
- 129.** Arrange the following events in chronological order:  
I. Kalinga War  
II. Accession of Bindusar  
III. Shunga Dynasty  
A) I, II, III  
C) III, I, II
- B) II, I, III  
D) II, III, I
- 130.** Which literary source describes how Chandragupta Maurya get Chanakya's assistance to overthrow the Nandas?  
A) Mudra Rakshasa  
C) Arthasastra
- B) Indica  
D) Divyavadana
- 131.** Pushyamitra, who was the commander of Brihadratha, the last Mauryan emperor, killed the king and established a new



dynasty. Which of the following was his dynasty?

- A) Shunga B) Kanva  
C) Satavahana D) Chedi

**132.** The hereditary soldiers of the Mauryan period were known as:

- A) Bhrotakas B) Maula  
C) Atavivala D) Vardhaki

**133.** In Which of the following states Erragudi inscription is located?

- A) Andhra Pradesh B) Tamil Nadu  
C) Odisha D) Kerala

**134.** Who among the following was a ruler of Shunga dynasty?

- A) Porus B) Pushyamitra  
C) Bindusara D) Ashoka

**135.** Who among the following rulers adopted the title "Devaputra" or 'Son of God'?

- A) Chola Rulers B) Maurya Rulers  
C) Gupta Rulers D) Kushana Rulers

**136.** In the Mauryan period the Samaharta stands for

- A) Commander in Chief B) The Chief Custodian of Storehouses

- C) Officer Incharge of Assessment and Collection D) Officer of Forest

**137.** Where Chandra Gupta Maurya spent his last days?

- A) Kashi B) Pataliputra  
C) Ujjain D) Shravanabelagola

**138.** With reference to the invaders in ancient India, which one of the following is the correct chronological order?

- A) Sakas-Kushans - Greeks B) Greeks-Sakas-Kushans  
C) Sakas-Greeks - Kushans D) Greeks-Kushans - Sakas

**139.** Which Kushan ruler extended his empire upto Bihar?

- A) Vima Kadphises B) Kanishka  
C) Sadashkana D) Kujula Kadphises

**140.** The earliest epigraphic reference to Chandragupta Maurya is to be found in the:

- A) Barabar Hill Cave Inscription of Asoka B) Nagarjuni Hill Cave Inscription of Dasaratha.  
C) Junagarh Rock Edict of Asoka. D) Junagarh Rock Inscription of Rudradaman

**141.** The colour of the pennants of the Mauryan chariots was

- A) white B) blue  
C) red D) green

**142.** In which Major Rock Edict did Asoka counsel for public generosity to Brahmins and Sramanas?

- A) V B) IX  
C) III D) IV

**143.** Read the following statements about Post-Mauryan Brahmins and identify the one which is not correct:

- A) The king relied on Brahmins for his daily work B) The highest praise for a monarch was to say that he did nothing which hurt the Brahmins.  
C) The Brahmins were well versed in the Vedas and performed their rituals daily. D) The Brahmins strictly practised vegetarianism and never took intoxicants.

**144.** Which of the following is not a Sanskrit work?

- A) Lalitavistara B) Divyavadana  
C) Milinda Panho D) Mahavastu

**145.** After the decline of the Kushan empire who took control over Patliputra?

- A) Kanvas B) Shungas  
C) Hunas D) Scythians

**146.** Who among the following was a Shaka ruler in India (AD 130 - 150)?

- A) Bindusara B) Panduka  
C) Rudradaman D) Chashtana

**147.** Who was responsible for killing the last Mauryan King?

- A) Vasudev Kanva B) Simuka  
C) Kanishka D) Pushyamitra Sunga

**148.** Consider the following pairs:

Rulers	Related Facts
1. Satakarni I	He vanquished Kalinga after the passing of Kharavela.
2. Hala	He arranged the Gatha Saptashati.
3. Gautamiputra Satakarni	He is viewed as the best lord of the Satavahana tradition.

Which of the above pair is/are correctly matched?

- A) 1 only B) 1 and 2 only  
C) 1, 2, and 3 D) More than one of the above.

**149.** With reference to the conquerors of post-Mauryan period i.e Greeks, Sakas, Parthians and the Kushans, which among the following options is NOT correct?

- A) They lost their identity in India and got completely Indianized B) They came to be known as second class kshatriyas  
C) They accepted Vaishnavism as their religion and discarded Shaivism D) More than one of the above.

**150.** Who among the following kings constructed the Stupa at Sanchi?

- A) Ashoka B) Bindusara  
C) Kanishka D) Kumargupta

**151.** Which one of the following activities was *not* a part of the daily time-table for a King as prescribed in Arthashastra?

- A) Receive reports on defense B) Visit the town incognito  
C) Receive revenue in cash D) Consult his Council of Ministers

**152.** In which of the following Ashoka edict mentions that 'All men are my children.'

- A) Rummindei B) Schism  
C) Delhi-Topra D) Dhauli and Jaugada

**153.** In Mauryan administration, the word 'tirtha' means:

- A) Council B) Administrative Department  
C) Religious place D) Tax collected at a place of pilgrimage

**154.** Which literary source describes how Chandragupta Maurya get Chanakya's assistance to overthrow the Nandas?

- A) Mudra Rakshasa B) Indica  
C) Arthasastra D) Divyavadana

**155.** In which text, it is mentioned that Pushyamitra, commander-in-chief of the Maurya army, killed the Mauryan king Brihadratha?

- A) Malavikagnimitra B) Nagnanda  
C) Harshacharita D) Kadambari

**156.** With reference to the ancient dynasty of India Vasudeva, Bhumimitra, Narayana, and Susharman were the king of which dynasty?

- A) Sunga Dynasty                      B) Kushan Dynasty  
C) Satavahana dynasty                D) Kanva Dynasty

**157.** The most famous 'shatak' of Mathura during post-Mauryan period was a type of \_\_\_\_\_

- A) Metal                                      B) Dance  
C) Wine                                        D) Cloth

**158.** Under which dynasty, earliest inscriptional information on land grants is provided?

- A) The Mauryas                              B) The Satavahanas  
C) The Sakas                                 D) The Guptas

**159.** Which Mauryan ruler was called 'Amitrochates' by the Greeks?

- A) Samudragupta                              B) Chandragupta I  
C) Bindusara                                 D) Kanishka

## GUPTA & POST GUPTAS AGE

**160.** The Iron Pillar at Mehrauli in Delhi is believed to record the achievements of

- A) Ashoka                                      B) Chandragupta Maurya  
C) Samudragupta                              D) Chandragupta I

**161.** Harshvardhana declared war against which ruler of the Gauda kingdom?

- A) Pulakeshin I                                B) Pulakeshin II  
C) Narsimhadeva                              D) Shashanka

**162.** Five types of gold coins were issued by Skandagupta. Which among the following is not one of those type?

- A) Archer type                                B) Horseman type  
C) King and Queen type                      D) Bull type

**163.** What was the land donated to Brahmins in the Gupta period called?

- A) Vellanvagai                                B) Shalabhoga  
C) Devadana                                  D) Agrahara

**164.** Vikramaditya VI, whose court poet Bilhan wrote his biography, was the ruler of the \_\_\_\_\_ dynasty.

- A) Chalukya                                    B) Pallava  
C) Rashtrakuta                                D) Ganga

**165.** Fa-Hien's mission to India was to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) learn about the administrative system of the Gupta kings                      B) understand the social position of women during the Gupta period  
C) visit the Buddhist institutions and to collect copies of Buddhist manuscripts                      D) More than one of the above.

**166.** Which Chinese pilgrim came to India during the reign of Harshavardhana?

- A) Fa Xian                                        B) I- Qing  
C) Nishka                                        D) Hiuen Tsang

**167.** Which of the following dynasties of South India issued their documents first in Prakrit and later in Sanskrit ?

- A) The Cholas of Tamil Nadu                B) The Pandyas of the post-Sangam Age  
C) The Pallavas of Tondaimandalam                D) The Gangas of Kalinganagara

**168.** Architectural developments In India manifested themselves In their full glory during the period of the

- A) Guptas                                        B) Nandas  
C) Mauryas                                      D) Cholas

**169.** Which one of the following was the most important consequence of the ancient Indian feudal system?

- A) Stability in the caste system                B) Development of handicrafts  
C) Extension of the arable land                D) Development of trade and commerce

**170.** Mahabalipuram Monuments were built in \_\_\_\_\_ dynasty architecture.

- A) Chandella                                    B) Pallava  
C) Pali    D) Gupta

**171.** Who among the following is known as the father of plastic surgery in ancient Indian history?

- A) Sushruta                                      B) Kalhan  
C) Bimbisara                                      D) Kautilya

**172.** Ravikirti composed prashasti of which of following Chalukya rulers?

- A) Mangalesha I                                B) Pulakeshin II  
C) Kirtivaraman II                              D) Vikramaditya IV

**173.** Samudragupta's mother belonged to which of the following gana?

- A) Koliya                                        B) Lichchhavi  
C) Sakya                                         D) Vajji

**174.** Who amongst the following is the daughter of one of the most important rulers in early Indian history, Chandragupta II?

- A) Satyavati Gupta                              B) Prabhavati Gupta  
C) Amravati Gupta                              D) Kushana Gupta

**175.** Who of the following is one of the nine gems of Chandragupta II? [RRB NTPC 2021]

- A) Vishakhadatta                                B) Brahmagupta  
C) Moggallana                                  D) Varahamihira

**176.** Who is known as the 'Napoleon of India'? [RRB NTPC 2021]

- A) Skandagupta                                B) Samudragupta  
C) Kumaragupta                                D) Chandragupta

**177.** Vikramaditya is another name of which famous Gupta ruler? [RRB NTPC 2021]

- A) Chandragupta I                                B) Ramagupta  
C) Kumaragupta II                                D) Chandragupta II

**178.** Name the daughter of one of the most important rulers in early Indian history, Chandragupta II. [RRB NTPC 2021]

- A) Parvatigupta                                B) Rudrama Devi  
C) Prabhavatigupta                                D) Lopamudra

**179.** Ravikirti's Aihole inscription speaks in detail the victory of Pulakesin II over: [RRB NTPC 2022]

- A) Samudragupta                                B) Harsha  
C) Kharavela                                      D) Kirtivarman I

**180.** Who among the following visited India during the reign of Harshavardhana? [RRB NTPC 2022]

- A) Fa Hien                                        B) Xuan Zang (Hsuan Tsang)  
C) Marco Polo                                      D) Ibn Battuta (Abu Abdullah Muhammad ibn Battutah)

**181.** Prayag Prashasti (also known as Allahabad Pillar Inscription) provides us information about the achievements of \_\_\_\_\_. [RRB NTPC 2022]

- A) Samudragupta                                B) Chandragupta-I  
C) Ashoka                                        D) Srigupta

**182.** Aihole Inscription is associated with which of the following rulers? [RRB Group D 2018]

- A) Vikramaditya                                B) Pulakesin II  
C) Akbar                                         D) Ashoka

**183.** Chandra Gupta II extended the Gupta Kingdom to Gujarat in \_\_\_\_\_ AD [RRB Group D 2018]

- A) 390  
C) 903
- B) 309  
D) 930
- 184.** With reference to history of India, the terms '*Rajuka*' used for which of the following?  
A) Merchant guilds  
C) Political associations
- B) Land measurement  
D) Revenue officials
- 185.** The Gupta gold and silver issues were initially based on the coins of the  
A) Romans and the Saka-Kshatrapas  
C) Kushanas and Saka-Kshatrapas
- B) Kushanas and Yaudheyas  
D) Romans and Kushanas
- 186.** Assertion (A) Harshavardhana, according to the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang not only followed Buddhism, but also had marked antipathy to the Brahmanical religion.  
Reason (R) Some seals which refer to his elder brother as a Buddhist describe Harsha as a devoted Saiva.  
A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A  
C) A is true, but R is false
- B) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A  
D) A is false, but R is true
- 187.** The temple of Deogarh near Jhansi and the sculptures in the temple at Garhwās near Allahabad remain important specimen of the\_\_\_\_\_.  
A) Gupta art  
C) Pallavas art
- B) Rashtrakutas art  
D) Mauryan art
- 188.** Which Persian king did Chalukyan king Pulakeshin II send his embassy to?  
A) Khusrau II  
C) Cyrus
- B) Xerxes  
D) Darius I
- 189.** Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?  
A) Kubernaga – married to Chandragupta I  
C) Prabhavati – married to Chandragupta II
- B) Dhruvadevi – Ramgupta's widow whom Chandragupta I married  
D) Kumaradevi – married to Rudrasena II, the Vakataka ruler
- 190.** Which, among the following dynasties, had not participated in the tripartite struggle which took place in ancient India?  
A) Palas  
C) Rashtrakutas
- B) Pratiharas  
D) Chalukyas
- 191.** Who composed the Allahabad Prashasti of Samudragupta?  
A) Ravikirti  
C) Vatsabhaṭṭiḥ
- B) Umapati Dhara  
D) Harishen
- 192.** Which one of the following texts is a treatise on astronomical system?  
A) Ganitsarsangrah  
C) Namlinganusashna
- B) Panchsidhantika  
D) Asthanghriday
- 193.** Nalanda University was established by \_\_\_\_\_ in the 5th century.  
A) Skandagupta  
C) Kumaragupta
- B) Chandragupta II  
D) Samudragupta
- 194.** Who among the following was the founder of the Vakataka Dynasty?  
A) Pravarasena I  
C) Pravarasena II
- B) Vindhyashakti  
D) Prabhavatigupta
- 195.** On the banks of which river was the war between Harshavardhana and Pulakeshin II fought?

- A) Narmada  
C) Godavari
- B) Krishna  
D) Ganga
- 196.** What was King Harshavardhana's capital city?  
A) Patliputra  
C) Varanasi
- B) Kannauj  
D) Mathura
- 197.** Harshavardhana hosted two major religious gatherings in  
A) Kannauj and Prayag  
C) Thaneshwar and Vallabhi
- B) Prayag and Thaneshwar  
D) Vallabhi and Prayag
- 198.** The term Prathama-Kulika in the Gupta period stands for:  
A) Chief Judicial Officer  
C) Chief Merchant
- B) Chief Banker  
D) Chief Craftsman
- 199.** Who among the following Shilahara Kings was defeated by the Solanki King Kumarapala?  
A) Mallikarjuna  
C) Aparajita
- B) Arikesarin  
D) Chhittaraja
- 200.** Which dynasty did Harshavardhana belong to?  
[RRB NTPC 2022]  
A) Gupta dynasty  
C) Maurya dynasty
- B) Chalukya dynasty  
D) Pushyabhuti dynasty

## SANGAM AGE

- 201.** Which of the following rulers was not related to Sangam State Chera?  
A) Nedeon  
C) Nedunjaral
- B) UdayinJarral  
D) Nedum
- 202.** 'Silappadikaram' is a Tamil epic that was written by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) Avvaiyar  
C) Sattanar
- B) Thiruvalluar  
D) Ilango Adigal
- 203.** Which dynasty was NOT in power during the Sangam Age?  
A) Pandayas  
C) Cholas
- B) Cheras  
D) Pallavas
- 204.** Which of the following does NOT belong to the Five epics of Sangam ?  
A) Silappathigaram  
C) Sivakachintamani
- B) Manimeghalai  
D) Thirumurugatrupadai
- 205.** Tolkappiyam in Sangam age is the greatest work of \_\_\_\_\_ literature.  
A) Tamil  
C) Sanskrit
- B) Telugu  
D) Kannada
- 206.** The term *amaichar* best described as which among the following during the Sangam Period?  
A) Ministers  
C) Envoys
- B) Military commanders  
D) Spies
- 207.** Who was the last ruler of the Chola dynasty?  
[RRB NTPC 2016]  
A) Rajaraja Chola 3  
C) Vijayalaya Chola
- B) Rajendra Chola 3  
D) Koluthunga Chola 3
- 208.** What was 'Sangam' in ancient India?  
A) Sangha or Mandal of Tamil poets.  
C) Tamil settlement
- B) Tamil King's court poets  
D) Mesolithic graves
- 209.** In which of the following cities was the Sangam assemblies held?

A) Nagapattinam  
C) Thiruvallur

B) Thiruvallur  
D) Madurai

**210.** How many Sangams (assembly of Tamil poets) were held in south India?

A) Four  
C) Five  
B) Three  
D) Two

## ANSWER KEY

Q.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Ans	C	D	A	B	D	B	B	D	D	D	A	D	A	D
Q.	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Ans	D	D	C	A	C	A	D	B	B	D	D	A	A	C
Q.	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Ans	D	C	A	A	D	D	C	D	A	C	A	C	D	A
Q.	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
Ans	D	C	D	B	C	A	D	C	D	C	B	B	B	B
Q.	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Ans	A	B	D	A	D	A	D	B	C	A	A	B	A	C
Q.	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
Ans	C	A	B	A	C	B	A	C	C	C	A	B	C	A
Q.	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98
Ans	B	C	B	A	D	D	D	B	B	D	B	D	C	C
Q.	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
Ans	A	B	D	C	C	A	A	B	A	C	B	C	C	B
Q.	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126
Ans	B	A	D	A	A	C	C	A	A	D	D	A	D	B
Q.	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
Ans	C	C	B	A	A	B	A	B	D	C	D	B	A	D
Q.	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154
Ans	A	C	D	C	D	C	D	C	C	A	B	D	B	A
Q.	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168
Ans	C	D	D	B	C	D	D	D	D	A	C	D	C	A
Q.	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182
Ans	C	B	A	B	B	B	D	B	D	C	B	B	A	B
Q.	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196
Ans	A	D	D	D	A	A	B	D	D	B	C	B	A	B
Q.	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210
Ans	A	D	A	D	A	D	D	D	A	A	B	A	D	B

## SOLUTIONS

### STONE AGE & INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

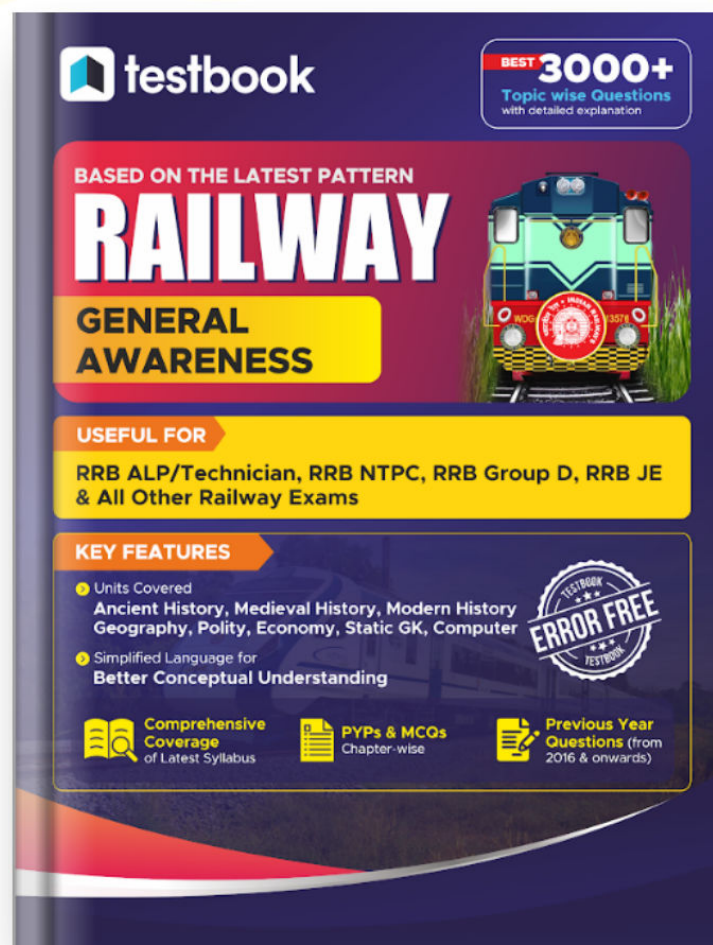
**1.** The most significant feature of Indus Valley civilization was the buildings made of the bricks. Indus Valley Civilization is also known as Harappan Civilization, which flourished around 2500 BC in Pakistan and Western India.

**2.** Dholavira, an archaeological site, is associated with the Indus Valley Civilization period. Dholavira is an archaeological site at Khadirbet in Bhachau Taluka of Kutch District, in the state of Gujarat in western India, which has taken its name from a modern-day village 1 kilometer south of it.

**3.** The Indus Valley Civilisation was a Bronze Age civilization that existed in the northwestern part of South Asia from 2500–1700 BCE. The civilization is known for its development of techniques in metallurgy and the use of bronze, copper, lead and tin for utensils, sculptures, vessels, and jewellery.

**4.** The history of India begins with the birth of the Indus Valley Civilization, known more specifically as the Harappan Civilization. It flourished around 2,500 BC, in the western part of South Asia, that is Pakistan and Western India.

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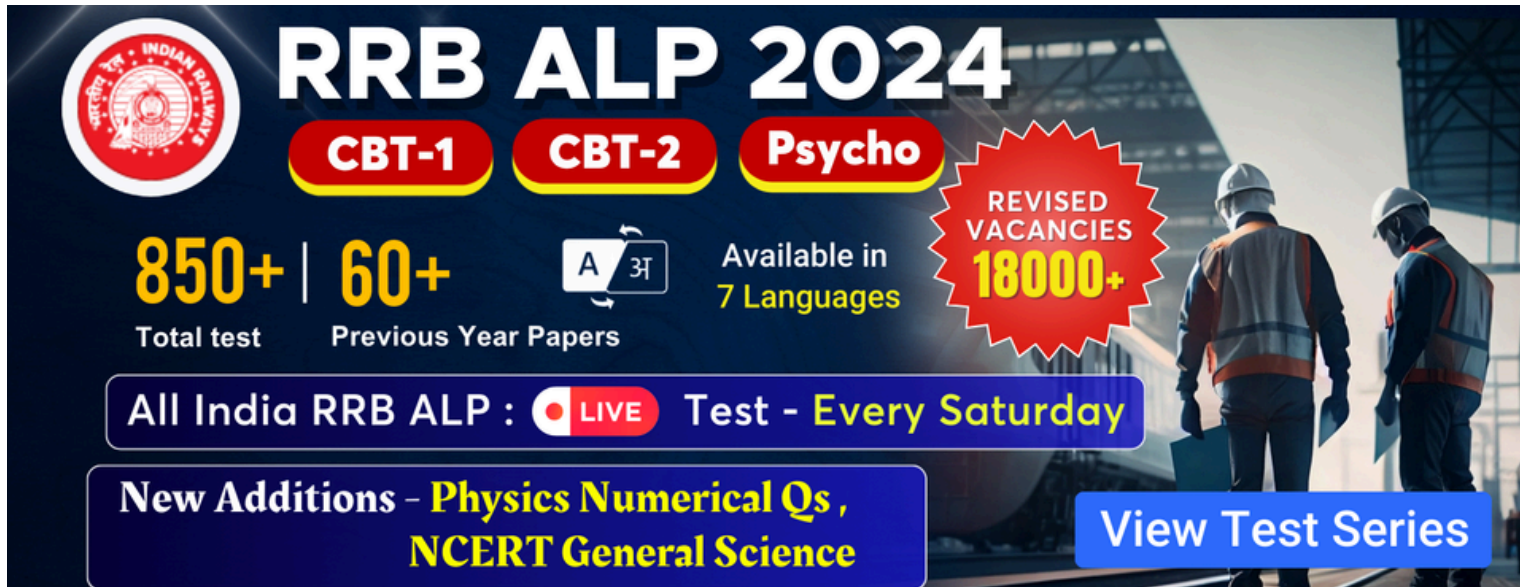
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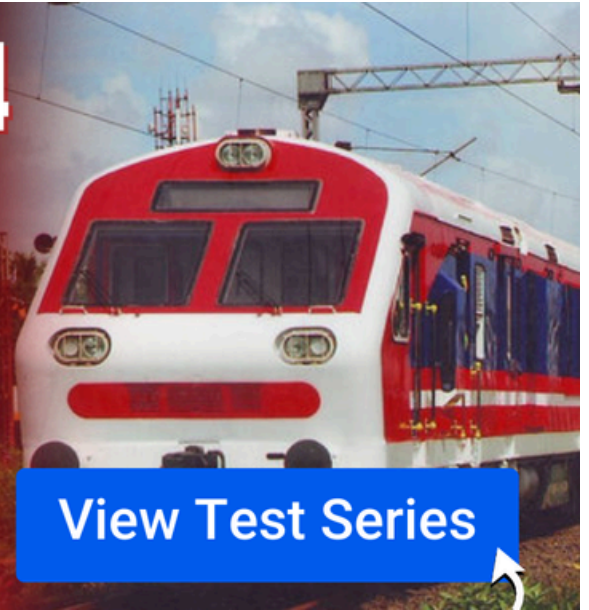
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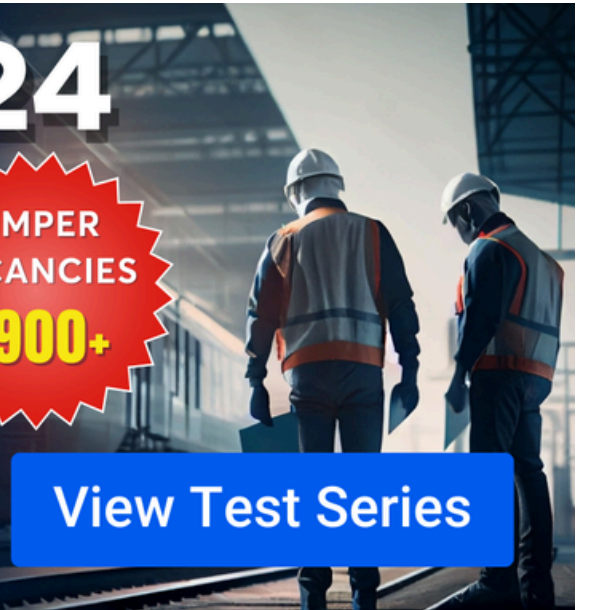
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5.

Site	Excavator	Region	Findings
Harrapan	Dayaram Sahani (1921)	Montgomery district of Pakistan, Left bank of river Ravi.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rows of 6 granaries.</li> <li>• Stone lingam &amp; yoni figures.</li> <li>• Wheat &amp; Barley in the wooden altar.</li> <li>• Dancing Nataraja.</li> <li>• Copper scale, mirror, vanity box, dice.</li> </ul>
Mohenjodaro	RD Banerjee (1922)	Larkana district in Sindh on the right bank of Indus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pashupati seals.</li> <li>• Bronze sculpture of a dancing girl.</li> <li>• Steatite image of a breaded man.</li> <li>• Terracotta figurine of Mother Goddess.</li> <li>• Three cylindrical seals.</li> </ul>

6. The main sites of the Indus Valley Civilization are Rakhigarhi (first site with genetic testing), Sanauli, Farmana, Kalibangan, Lothal, Dholavira, Mehrgarh, Harappa, Chanhudaro and Mohenjodaro.

Uruk, also known as Warka or Warkah, was an ancient city of Sumer (and later of Babylonia) situated east of the present bed of the Euphrates River on the dried-up ancient channel of the Euphrates 30 km east of modern Samawah, Al-Muthannā, Iraq.

7. The bull was frequently seen on the seals of the Harrapan Civilisation. Harrapan seals and materials were found in Sumerian, Mesopotamian Oman, Bahrain, and Iran.

8. Harappa is the earliest city discovered in India was Harappa. It was excavated in 1921 in the Punjab province of British India. After the excavation of Harappa as the first site, the Indus Valley Civilisation is also known as Harrapan Civilisation hereafter.

9. Compared to Mohenjodaro, Chanhudaro was a small settlement. This section was dedicated solely to the manufacturing of handicrafts. Bead-making, shell-cutting, metal-working, seal-making, and weight-making are some of the principal craft productions.

10. Indus Valley settlements procured shells from Nageshwar and Balakot, lapis lazuli from Shortughai, carnelian from Bharuch, and steatite from Rajasthan and Gujarat. Copper was obtained from Oman. Local materials like soil and wood were also used.

11. Steatite was the material used to make most of the standard Harappan seals. These seals were square in shape with a  $2 \times 2$  dimension and were primarily used for commercial purposes. Steatite is a soft stone that was easy to carve and was readily available in the region.

12. Ropar in Punjab is the site of the earliest Indus Valley excavations in independent India and a well-developed civilization. Recent excavations have further established its significance. Banawali in Haryana is another Indus Valley site on the bank of the Saraswati River. However, the correct answer to the question is Ropar.

13. Firstly, in 1921, Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni, under the direction of Sir John Marshall, Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India, explored Harappa located on the banks of the Ravi river in the Montgomery district of Punjab (present-day Pakistan). Three names are used for this civilization - Indus Civilization, Indus Valley Civilization and Harrapan Civilization.

14. The Kalibanga site of Harappa has shown evidence of an earthquake around 2600 BC, which brought an end to the Early Indus settlement at the site. This is perhaps the earliest archaeologically recorded earthquake.

15. Mehrgarh is located in the valley of the Bolan river in the Kacchi plains, about 150 km from Quetta in Baluchistan. It is a pre-pottery Neolithic culture and the inhabitants used polished stone axes, querns, microliths, and bone tools. Bones of gazelle, swamp deer, and antelopes indicate that they hunted wild animals too.

16. The overlap between Late Harappan and Ochre Coloured Pottery phase can be traced at Bargaon and Ambakheri sites in western Uttar Pradesh. The evidence suggests an eastward and southward migration of the Harappans. The Ochre Coloured Pottery culture is a Bronze Age culture of the Indo-Gangetic Plain, generally dated "2000–1500 BCE," extending from eastern Punjab to northeastern Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh, showing similarities with both the Late Harappan culture and the Vedic culture.

17. The Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi undertook the excavation work of Kalibangan. Kalibangan is a town located on the left or southern banks of the Ghaggar in Hanumangarh District, Rajasthan. The name " Kalibanga " means " Black colored Bangles ". The leg bone of the elephant was found in Kali Bangan.

18. The excavation work of Ahar was accomplished under the leadership of H.D. Sankalia. Ahar civilization was located in Udaipur, Rajasthan. This civilization was situated near the Banas River. It was also known as 'Tamravati'.

19. The part of Harappan cities that was known as the citadel was the West Side. It was typically located on a raised area and was surrounded by high walls. The citadel was home to the most important buildings in the city, including temples, palaces, and administrative buildings.

20. Harappa, one of the major cities of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization, was built on the bank of the Ravi River. The ruins of Harappa are located in present-day Pakistan, near the city of Sahiwal in Punjab province.

21. Mohenjo Daro is an archaeological site in the Sindh province of Pakistan. The meaning of Mohenjo is Daro The mound of the dead. After a year of discovery of the Harappa, the archaeological site of Mohenjo-Daro was recognized in 1922. Mohenjo-Daro was developed around 3,000 BCE from the prehistoric Indus culture and it was among the largest cities of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization.



**22.** Harappans procured Lapis Lazuli, a blue stone from Shortughai. The Harappans used a variety of materials for craft production. While some such as clay were locally available, many such as stone, timber and metal had to be procured from outside the alluvial plain.

**23.** Canal traces have been discovered in Shortughai. Shortughai is located in Afghanistan. It is thought to be the Indus Valley Civilization's northernmost settlement. Carnelian and lapis lazuli beads, bronze objects, and terracotta figurines were found in Shortughai.

**24.** R. D. Banerjee is the discoverer of Mohenjo-Daro meaning "Mound of the dead". The site was discovered in 1922. Mohenjo-Daro is an ancient city located in the province of Sindh, Pakistan. It was one of the largest settlements of the Indus Valley Civilization.

**25.** The 40th Indian point to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List is located in Gujarat. After the addition of the two spots, the number of World Heritage spots in India stands to be 40. While Dholavira came to the fourth point from Gujarat and 40th from India to make the list, it's the first point of the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC) in India to get the label.

**26.** Mesolithic period is marked by the development of grasslands. This in turn led to an increase in the number of deer, antelope, goat, sheep and cattle, i.e. animals that survived on grass. Those who hunted these animals now followed them, learning about their food habits and their breeding seasons.

**27.** Burnt brick buildings are the most significant feature of the Indus Valley Civilization. John Marshall was the first scholar to use the term 'Indus Valley Civilisation'. The Indus Valley Civilisation belongs to the Protohistoric Period (Chalcolithic Age/Bronze Age). Dayaram Sahni first discovered Harappa Civilisation in 1921.

## VEDIC AGE & RISE OF MAHAJANAPADA

**28.** "Satyameva Jayate" means "Truth alone triumphs". It is a part of a mantra from Mundaka Upanishad which is an ancient Hindu scripture. This phrase was adopted as the national motto of India on 26 January 1950 following the independence of India.

**29.** Atharva Veda is an Encyclopedia for medicine. It was a collection of spells, prayers, charms, and hymns. There are prayers for various purposes like to protect crops from lightning, against poisonous snakes, healing spells, love spells, versus, etc. The purpose of charms and spells is to ward off evils and disease. It contains the procedure for everyday life.

**30.**

- The Yajur Veda is an ancient collection of Sanskrit mantras and verses, used in Hindu worship and rituals.
- The name was taken from the Sanskrit roots, yajur, meaning "worship" or "sacrifice" and Veda, meaning "knowledge".
- Yajur Veda is sometimes translated as "Knowledge of the Sacrifice".

**31.** Dhanurveda is related to Archery (Weapon). The word Dhanurveda comes from "Dhanus" meaning bow and "Veda" meaning knowledge means the science of archery. Dhanurveda is an ancient treatise on the science of archery and the art of warfare.

**32.** The Rig Veda is the oldest religious text in the world with 1028 hymns divided into ten books. It contains the Gayatri Mantra and Purushasukta hymn which talks about the caste system. The Vedas are the first religious text of Hinduism with four Vedas. 9th Mandala is a compilation of soma hymns. The 10th Mandala of Rigveda contains the Purushasukta about the origin of the caste system

**33.** Samveda. It is one of the four main Vedas of Hinduism and is known as the "Book of Songs" or "Veda of Chants". It is a collection of tunes and chants set to the words of Rigveda. The Gandharvaveda, which deals with art forms like music and dance, is related to Samaveda.

**34.** Samaveda mentions about music. It is also called the book of melodies. It is a part of four Vedas namely Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, Atharvana Veda. It's Upaveda is Gandharva Veda.

**35.** The Atharva Veda is one of the four Vedas which mentions about magical rituals and charms. The Atharva Veda is sometimes called the "Veda of magical formulas", an epithet declared to be incorrect by other scholars.

**36.** Som Veda is not a Veda. Vedas are written in Sanskrit and oldest text about Hindu culture. They are also known as Sruti. Vedvyasa is known to be compiled Vedas.

**37.** Out of the 108 Upanishads, 11 Upanishads are considered to be the main. The word Upanishad means to sit down near someone and denotes a student sitting near his guru to learn.

**38.** The oldest existing veda focuses on worldly prosperity and natural beauty. It was believed to be composed between 1500 BC to 1000 BC. It comprises 1028 hymns which were dedicated to several deities, in particular, to their chief deity, Indra. These hymns were composed by sages (rishis).

**39.** Sacrifice of cattle on a large scale due to Vedic practices was the root cause of the religious movements in India during the 6th century B.C. The simplicity, social equality, unity and morality of the Early Vedic times got lost in blind rites in form of animal sacrifices, numerous ceremonies and meaningless practices during the Later Vedic period.

**40.** Avanti, in the Malwa region of central India, was divided into a northern and a southern part by the Vindhya. The two important capitals of this kingdom were Mahishmati (identified with modern Maheshwar) and Ujjayini (near modern Ujjain). Pradyota was a famous king of Avanti.

**41.** Angutara Nikaya, a Buddhist scripture talks of 16 Mahajanapadas. Most of them flourished in the northern or central part of the Indian subcontinent. Among them, Asmaka or Assaka was the only Mahajanapada in Dakshinapatha to be found south of the Vindhya Range. It was situated on the banks of the Godavari in present-day Telangana and Maharashtra.

**42.** Vajji Mahajanapada was a confederation of 8 republican clans. The principality of the Vajji (Vrijji) was in eastern India, north of the Ganga, extending up to the Nepal hills. Historians consider the Vajji a confederacy of eight clans. This is based on a reference in Buddhaghosha's Sumangala Vilasini.

**43.** The Chenab River, also known as Chandrabhaga, is a tributary of the Indus River. It was called Askini during the Vedic period. It flows through Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab, Pakistan, and its waters are shared by India and Pakistan according to the Indus Waters Treaty.

**44.** Avanti, Chedi, Vatsa, Magadha, and Anga were powerful kingdoms in the 6th century B.C. Avanti was located in the

Ujjain district, Chedi in the eastern parts of modern Bundellchand, Vatsa in Kausambi, Magadha around Patna and Gaya, and Anga in Bhagalpur and Monghyr. Sisupala was a famous enemy of Krishna and ruled Chedi. Magadha was protected by the rivers Son and Ganga and had Girivraja or Rajagriha as its capital. Anga was located to the east of Magadha and west of the Rajamahil hills.

**45.** Ownership issues have been discussed in ancient texts like Dharmasutras, Dharmashastras, and Manusmriti. The Manusmriti states that the paternal estate should be divided equally among sons after the death of parents, with a special share for the eldest. Women were allowed to keep gifts received during marriage as Stridhana, which could be inherited by their children without the husband's claim.

**46.** In the Rigvedic period, the main way of worshiping gods was through sacrifices, but there is also mention of 'Mridhara-Vacha', meaning 'the one who does not sacrifice'. This refers to someone who does not perform sacrifices, unlike the majority of people during that time. Therefore, the correct answer is option 2.

**47.** Bali was the tax that was collected during the Vedic period. This tax was usually collected in the form of a portion of the agricultural produce or as a tribute from conquered territories. The collected revenue was then used to support the king's administration and his court.

**48.** Rigveda is one of the oldest sacred texts of Hinduism, composed in the ancient Sanskrit language. It contains hymns and prayers dedicated to various deities and natural elements like rivers, mountains, and forests. Among the rivers mentioned in Rigveda, Ganga is the only one that is named just once, in the 10th book, hymn 75, verse 5.

**49.**

Mahajanapadas	Capital
Kosala	Shravasti
Kuru	Indraprastha/Hastinapur
Vajji	Vaishali
Gandhara	Taxila

**50.** The oldest Veda is the Rigveda, composed about 3500 years ago. The Rigveda includes more than a thousand hymns, called sukta or "well-said". These hymns are in praise of various gods and goddesses. The Rigveda was recited and heard rather than read.

**51.** The term "Purandara" is derived from Sanskrit, where "Pura" means 'city' or 'fort' and "dara" means 'tearer' or 'destroyer'. Therefore, "Purandara" translates to "Destroyer of Forts".

**52.** Most Upanishadic thinkers were men, especially brahmins and rajas. Occasionally, there is mention of women thinkers, such as Gargi, who was famous for her learning, and participated in debates held in royal courts.

**53.** Avanti was an ancient Indian Mahajanapada (great region), which at present belonged to the Malwa region. According to the Buddhist text, Anguttara Nikaya, Avanti was one of the Solasa Mahajanapadas (sixteen great regions) of the 6th century BCE.

**54.** The city of Pataliputra was founded by Udayin at the confluence of two rivers, the Son and the Ganges. Because of Pataliputra's pivotal location in the empire, he moved his capital from Rajagriha to Pataliputra. It was named Rajagaha in the Pali language.

**55.** Jeevak was the name of the famous doctor in the court of King Bimbisara who was the personal physician of Lord Buddha. He lived in Rajgraha, present-day Rajgir in the 5th century BCE. Jeevak was also sometimes described as the "Medicine King".

## BUDDHISM & JAINISM

**56.** The meaning of "Mahayana" in Sanskrit is Great Vehicle. Mahayana is a term for a broad group of Buddhist traditions, texts, philosophies, and practices developed in ancient India. It is considered one of Buddhism's three main existing branches, the others being Theravada and Vajrayana.

**57.** In Buddhist tradition, Channa was the charioteer and companion of Prince Siddhartha Gautama before he became the Buddha. When Siddhartha decided to renounce his princely life, Channa accompanied him out of the palace on a horse named Kanthaka.

**58.** The correct answer is Vaishali. The first woman to be ordained into the Sangha was Mahaprajapati Gautami, who was the aunt of Gautama Buddha. It was the first Buddhist sites where women were ordained into the Sangha for the first time.

**59.** Mahavira's teachings were compiled in 12 sections known as angas. The teachings are comprehensive instructions on every aspect of life, including moral, ethical, and philosophical dimensions. The Prakrit language was used to pen down these teachings as it was the common language in India during Mahavira's time, which made the teachings more accessible to the common people.

**60.** The term "Jain" is derived from the Sanskrit word "Jina" which means conqueror of senses. Vardhamana Mahavira was the last and 24th Tirthankara of the Jains.

**61.** Mahavira was a contemporary of Gautam Buddha. Both Mahavira and Gautam Buddha preached their teachings at the same time, hence are considered to be contemporaries of each other. Siddhartha Gautama was born in 563 BC in Lumbini, Shaky Republic (present-day Nepal) (according to the Buddhist tradition). Mahavira was born in a royal Kshatriya family to King Siddhartha and Queen Trishala. Mahavira was born in 540 BC.

**62.** The Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, formerly known as the School of Buddhist Philosophy, located in the city of Leh in Ladakh, is a deemed university under the Ministry of Culture.

**63.** Buddha gave his first preaching at Sarnath, and this act is called Dhammachakkapavattan. Buddha left home at the age of 29 to become a preacher.

**64.** Non-violence (Ahimsa) is the most fundamental among the five principles of Jainism. "Ahimsa Paramo Dharma" was told by Lord Mahavira. The Other principles of Jainism are: Truthfulness (Satya), Non-stealing (Asatya), Celibacy (brahmacharya), Non-Possessiveness (Aparigraha).

**65.** The ultimate goal of education in Jainism is 'liberation' as their teachings laid primary emphasis on: attainment of salvation or moksha from the chain of birth and death, teaching that salvation or moksha is attainable to anyone willing to learn it.

**66.** 'Harmika', a balcony-like structure that represented the abode of God was part of Buddhist architecture. The

Harmika is inspired by a square railing or fence that surrounded the mound of dirt, marking it as a sacred burial site.

**67.** Pradakshina-path is the circular path around the stupa. This was surrounded with railings. Entrance of the path was through gateways. Devotees walked around the stupa in a clockwise direction, as a mark of devotion.

**68.** The correct answer is Bhikkhunis. Therigatha is classified as part of the Khuddaka Nikaya, the collection of short books in the Sutta Pitaka. Therigatha is the "earliest extant text depicting women's spiritual experiences." in Theravada Buddhism.

**69.** The Buddha belonged to the Sakya gana, which was a small republic located in the foothills of the Himalayas in present-day Nepal. The Sakya gana was ruled by a council of elders known as the Gana Parishad and was known for its adherence to Vedic traditions and rituals.

**70.** The Buddha's belief system is best described as agnostic. He did not deny the existence of gods or a creator, but he also did not claim to know for sure whether they existed. He emphasized personal experience and rejected dogma and blind faith. The Buddhist concept of emptiness reflects this agnosticism, as it views everything as constantly changing and interdependent with no permanent self or substance. The Buddha's teachings encourage testing teachings for oneself to see if they lead to greater wisdom and compassion, rather than blindly following tradition or authority.

**71.** Upasakadasah is a text that belongs to Jainism. According to Jaina tradition, Mahavira was preceded by 23 other teachers or Tirthankaras – literally, those who guide men and women across the river of existence. The most important idea in Jainism is that the entire world is animated: even stones, rocks and water have life.

**72.** In ancient India, the term "Theris" refers to respected women in Buddhism. Initially, only men were allowed into the sangha, but later women also came to be admitted. According to Buddhist texts, this was made possible through the mediation of Ananda, one of the Buddha's dearest disciples, who persuaded him to allow women into the sangha.

**73.** Tathagata is a Pali word; Gautama Buddha uses it when referring to himself or other Buddhas in the Pāli Canon. The Buddha is quoted on numerous occasions in the Pali Canon as referring to himself as the Tathāgata instead of using the pronouns me, I, or myself. The paintings are generally themed around Buddhism – the life of Tathagatha Buddha and Jataka stories. The outlines of the paintings were done in red color. One of the striking features is the absence of blue color in the paintings.

**74.** The 12th Tirthankar, Vasupujya attained nirvana at Mandar hill. Bhagavan Vasupujya got Nirvana on the fourteenth day of the bright half of the month of Ashadh. On top of this hill is also a Jain temple built in honour of Vasupujya.

**75.** Ashoka was one of the most famous Mauryan rulers who ruled from 268 to 232 BCE. He is known for his conversion to Buddhism and his efforts to spread the religion throughout his empire. After a brutal battle in Kalinga in 261 BCE, he became disillusioned with the violence and bloodshed that he had witnessed. He turned to Buddhism as a way to find inner peace and to promote nonviolence and compassion.

**76.** At the age of thirty, Vardhamana Mahavira became an ascetic and wandered for twelve years. In the 13th year of his

penance, he attained the highest spiritual knowledge called Kevala Gnana.

**77.** Mahavira was born into King Siddhartha and Queen Trishala. Mahavira was born in 540 BCE. Mahavira belongs to the Ikshvaku dynasty. Kundagrama near Vaishali is considered to be the birthplace of Mahavira.

**78.** According to historical events, the Buddha was born into a noble family in Lumbini in 563 BCE, whereas Buddhist tradition dates his birth to 624 BCE. In his early years, he was known by the name Siddhartha.

**79.** According to Jainism, nirvana or salvation depends upon right belief, right knowledge and right action. Jainism is an ancient Indian religion which teaches the way to liberation and a path to spiritual purity and enlightenment through disciplined nonviolence to all living creatures.

**80.** The University at Nalanda was established in the fifth century and shut down in the thirteenth. In the ancient Indian kingdom of Magadha, which is now called Bihar, Nalanda University served as the epicentre of learning. King of the Gupta Dynasty, Kumargupta I, founded the University of Nalanda.

**81.** Alara Kalama was the first teacher of Gautam Buddha. Alara Kalama wanted Siddhartha (Buddha) to succeed him as head of his teaching lineage. He politely declined and continued on his quest to Awakening. His next teacher was Udraka Ramputra.

**82.** Ranakpur is famous for its Jain temple dedicated to Tirthankara Adinatha. Ranakpur is a village located in Desuri tehsil near Sadri town in the Pali district of Rajasthan.

**83.** Buddha Purnima falls on the full moon day of Vaishakha according to the Hindu Calendar. Vaishakha is the second month of the Hindu calendar and falls in April-May in the Gregorian calendar.

**84.** Kangyur and Tengyur are Buddhist literature. The meaning of "Kangyur" is "the translated words (of the Buddha)". It is the entire collection of texts regarded as buddhavacana or "Buddha-word", translated into Tibetan.

**85.** Nagapattanam was not a centre of Jainism during the early medieval period. Nagapattinam is a town in Tamil Nadu that was important during the Medieval Cholas period as a port for commerce and naval expeditions.

**86.**

- Kanishka convened the fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir.
- The fourth Buddhist council was convened at Kudalavana, Kashmir in 72AD.
- It was presided by Vasumitra and deputed by Asvaghosha.
- The fourth Buddhist council dealt with the serious conflict between Sarvasthivada teachers of Kashmir and Gandhara.
  - Sarvasthivada was one of the early Buddhist schools established during the reign of Ashoka.
- Buddhism was divided into two sects namely Hinayana and Mahayana after this council.

**87.** Vinaya Pitaka is the oldest and smallest of the three sections of the Buddhist canonical Tipitaka ("Triple Basket") and the one that regulates monastic life and the daily affairs of monks and nuns according to rules attributed to the Buddha.

**88.** The Jataka tales depict stories related to the Gautama Buddha in both human and animal forms. The Jataka is a collection of stories about the previous birth life of Gautam Buddha.

**89.** Mahavira was the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.

Vardhamana is the original name of Lord Mahavira. He was born in 599 BCE in Kundagrama near Vaishali in Bihar. Vardhamana was a Kshatriya prince of the Lichchhavis. The language used by Mahavira and his followers was the Prakrit language.

**90.** Buddha's first sermon was delivered at Sarnath to his five disciples and is known as Dharmachakra Pravartana. He introduced the Four Noble Truths, the foundational teaching of Buddhism, in this sermon. The Seated Buddha from Gandhara depicts him in the Dharmachakra Mudra, setting the wheel of Dharma in motion. This event is also known as The Setting in Motion of the Wheel of Dharma.

**91.** The second Buddhist council was held in Vaishali under King Kalashoka's patronage and presided over by Sabakami. It discussed whether monks could handle wealth. The Stavros caused the first schism in the Union, leading to the second council Kalashoka.

**92.** Sonji ki Nasiya Temple in Ajmer is a Jain temple dedicated to Lord Rishabhdev with a main hall called 'Swarna Nagri' housing gold-preserved wooden works depicting Jainism. The depiction of Ayodhya in this room uses 1000 kg of gold.

**93.** Abhidhamma Pitaka, Vinaya Pitaka, and the Sutta Pitaka are the three Pitakas. It is composed during the third Buddha council held at Patliputra during the reign of Ashok. It is composed by mogliputratisa

**94.** The four Noble Truths are: The Truth of Suffering (Dukkha), The Truth of the Cause of Suffering (Samudhya), The Truth of the Cessation of Suffering (Nirodha), The Truth of the Path Cessation of Suffering (Magga). The eight-fold path is Ashtangika Marga - Right View or Right Understanding, Right Thoughts, Right Speech, Right Conduct, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness, Right Meditation or Right Contemplation

**95.** Triratna in Sanskrit means 'Three Jewels. The Buddha, Dhamma (dharma): his teaching, and Sangha: the community of all those who follow his teachings.

**96.** Queen Maya Devi of Sakya was the birth mother of Gautam Buddha, the sage on whose teachings Buddhism was founded. Under Sal tree, Queen Mayadevi give birth to Gautam Buddha.

**97.** The rise of Jainism and Buddhism saw religious unrest in India in the 6th century BC. Gautama Buddha was the founder of Buddhism and was born in 563 BC, whereas Jainism was founded by Rishabh Nath. According to Jain tradition, there were 24 Tirthankaras, the first being Rishabhadeva / Adinatha and the last being Mahavira.

**98.** If desires are not relieved, then misery can be avoided is not among the Four Noble Truths of Lord Buddha. The Four Noble Truths comprise the essence of Buddha's teachings, though they leave much left unexplained.

**99.** The Tripitaka is the holy book of Buddhism, consisting of three Pitakas. Zoroastrianism is an Iranian religion with a dualistic cosmology, while Jainism is an Indian religion. The Buddha's teachings are preserved in writing in the Tripitaka.

**100.** Right Control is not included in the Noble Eightfold Path (Ashtangika Marga) of Buddhism. The idea of the Eightfold Path appears in what's considered the primary sermon of the founding father of Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama, referred to as Buddha, which he delivered after his enlightenment.

**101.** Rishabh Natha, the first Tirthankara in Jainism, is often depicted with a bull as his emblem, which represents strength, stability, and Dharma. On the other hand, Mahavira, the 24th

and last Tirthankara, is associated with a lion as his emblem, which symbolizes bravery, fearlessness, and courage. Both of these emblems are considered significant in Jainism and are frequently used in Jain art and literature.

**102.** Towards the close of Chandragupta Maurya's rule, a terrible famine broke out in South Bihar. Bhadrabahu and his disciples migrated to Sravanabelgola in Karnataka. He was the last acharya of the undivided Jain sangha. After him, the Sangha split into two separate teacher-student lineages of monks.

**103.** Uvasaggaharam Stotra was composed 2,100 years ago by Shree Bhadrabahu Swami, a very powerful Jain Monk. Bhadrabahu Swami wrote "Uvasaggaharam" to pay respect to 23rd Jain Tirthankara Bhagwan Parshvanath and seek his help in making all Upsargs vanish.

**104.** Jainism came to prominence in the 6th century B.C., when Lord Mahavira propagated the religion. There were 24 great teachers, the last of whom was Lord Mahavira. These twenty-four teachers were called Tirthankaras—people who had attained all knowledge (Moksha) while living and preached it to the people. The first Tirthankara was Rishabh Natha.

**105.** 'Jivaka Chintamani' is associated with Jainism. It is a Sanskrit text that focuses on medicine and was written by an unknown author in the 8th century CE. The text is named after Jivaka, a physician who was a contemporary of the Buddha and is considered a significant figure in Jain medicine.

**106.** The Visuddhimagga is the "great treatise" of Theravada Buddhism. It is a comprehensive manual of doctrine and meditation written in the fifth century in Pali by the great Buddhist commentator, Buddhaghosa.

**107.** Milinda-panha was a lively dialogue on Buddhist doctrine with questions and dilemmas posed by King Milinda—i.e., Menander, the Greek ruler of a large Indo-Greek empire in the late 2nd century BCE—and answered by Nagasena, a senior monk.

**108.** According to Buddhist literature, the second Buddhist Council held 100 years after the Maha Parinirvana of Lord Buddha, in Vaishali, was patronised by Kalashoka, in the tenth year of his reign. Despite King Kalashoka's best efforts, differences among the Buddhists persisted.

**109.** The 12th Tirthankar, Vasupujya attained nirvana at Mandar hill. Bhagavan Vasupujya got Nirvana on the fourteenth day of the bright half of the month of Ashadh.

**110.** Vardhamana Mahavira was Jainism's 24th Tirthankara. He has been the spiritual successor of Parshvanatha, who the 23rd Tirthankara. A Tirthankara is considered as the spiritual teacher and saviour of dharma (righteous path) in Jainism. Following his parent's instructions, he married Princess Yashoda, at a very young age and the couple had a daughter, Priyadarshana.

**111.** Mahavira, born in 540 BC to King Siddhartha and Queen Trishala of the Ikshvaku dynasty as Vardhaman Mahavir was the 24th Tirthankara in Jainism and travelled throughout the Indian subcontinent to spread Jainism. He married Princess Yashoda at a very young age and both had a daughter Priyadarshana. Priyadarshana married Jamali.

**112.** First Buddhist Council was held at the Saptaparni Cave of Rajgriha. Ajatashatru patronized the first Buddhist Council and Buddha died during his reign.

**113.** Ubbiri was a Buddhist nun. Ubbiri was a woman of Shravasti, who attained Nibbana (enlightenment) as an upasika, i.e., laywoman. The turning point in her life was an encounter with the Buddha. That encounter took place while she was lamenting the death of her daughter Jiva.

**114.** The First Jain assembly was held in 300 BC at Patliputra during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya. This meeting took place under the chairmanship of Sthoolabhadra. In the first Jain assembly, the Jain religion was divided into two parts Digambar and Shwetambar.

## MAURYAN & POST MAURYAN EMPIRE

**115.** The earliest deciphered epigraphy of Ashoka's inscription in India was written in Brahmi script. Ashoka was the first ruler who tried to take his message to the people through inscriptions. Most of Ashoka's inscriptions were in Prakrit and were written in the Brahmi script.

**116.** Sanchi Stupa is situated near the city of Bhopal. It is a Buddhist complex, famous for its Great Stupa, on a hilltop at Sanchi Town in Raisen District of the State of Madhya Pradesh. It is one of the oldest stone structures in India and was originally commissioned by the emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE.

**117.** Ashoka belonged to the Maurya dynasty. We know about the Maurya dynasty and Ashoka from Arthashastra and Indica of Megasthenes. The name Priyadasi belongs to Ashoka. He spread Buddhism all over Asia. At the time of his reign, the capital of the dynasty was in Pataliputra with provincial capitals at Taxila and Ujjain.

**118.** Between the third century BCE and the eighth century CE, a series of Middle Indo-Aryan dialects known as the Prakrits were spoken on the Indian subcontinent. While those in the northwest of the subcontinent were written in Aramaic and Greek, Prakrit was the language used for the majority of Asokan inscriptions. Inscriptions in Afghanistan employed the Aramaic and Greek scripts.

**119.** Chandragupta Maurya was the grandfather of King Ashoka. He established the Maurya dynasty and ruled from 324 BCE to 293 BCE with his capital in Magadha.

**120.** Ashoka was the Mauryan emperor who had his inscriptions engraved on rocks and pillars during his reign from c. 272/268-231 BCE. He was the first ruler to inscribe his messages on stone surfaces in Prakrit and Brahmi script.

**121.** Girnar, located in the Junagadh district of Gujarat, is the correct option as it houses fourteen of Ashoka's Major Rock Edicts. Kalsi, Shishupalgarh, and Sannati are located in Uttarakhand, Odisha, and Karnataka respectively.

**122.** Suvarnagiri was considered the Gold mine hub in Karnataka during the Mauryan reign. It was an important source of revenue for the empire.

**123.** Rajgir, also known as Rajagriha, was the capital of Magadha for several years before it was shifted to Pataliputra. The Rajgir Hills lie near the city of Rajgir in central regions of the Indian state of Bihar.

**124.** Greek historian, diplomat, and explorer Megasthenes lived in the Hellenistic era (350–290 B.C.). He was sent as an ambassador to Chandragupta Maurya's court by Seleucus I Nicator, the Greek conqueror of West Asia.

**125.** King Ashoka was the son of Bindusara, who belonged to the Maurya dynasty. Bindusara was the second Mauryan emperor of India. He was the son of Chandragupta Maurya, the founder of the Mauryan dynasty.

**126.** The literary sources from the Mauryan period comprised Kautilya's Arthashastra, Visakha Datta's Mudra Rakshasa, Megasthenes's Indica, Buddhist literature, and Puranas.

**127.** Emperor Ashoka propagated the ideals of Buddhism. He sent missionaries to distant places so that people could inspire their lives with the teachings of Lord Buddha. His son Mahendra and daughter, Sanghamitra were also included in these missionaries.

**128.** Both Taxila and Ujjain were provincial capitals under the rule of Ashoka. Taxila was the capital of the Gandhara province and Ujjain was the capital of the Avanti province.

**129.** The correct answer is II, I, III. The Kalinga war was fought in the year 261 BC. Under Bindusara rule he brought 16 more Indian kingdoms in his rule and thus the Mauryan Empire had almost spanned the entire Indian Peninsula. He was born in 320 BC and ruled from 298 BC to 272 BC. The Shunga dynasty was a Brahmin dynasty of ancient India, which ruled after the Maurya dynasty. They ruled in North India from 185 BC to 73 BC i.e., it lasted for 112 years.

**130.** Mudra Rakshasa describes how Chandragupta Maurya got Chanakya's assistance to overthrow the Nandas. It is a Sanskrit-language play by Vishakhadatta that narrates the ascent of King Chandragupta Maurya to power in India. It also gives an excellent account of the prevailing socio-economic conditions of that time.

**131.** Pushyamitra established the Shunga dynasty after killing the last Mauryan emperor. This dynasty ruled over North India from around 185 BCE to 73 BCE.

**132.** During the Mauryan period, the hereditary soldiers were known as "Maula". The Maulas were a class of soldiers who inherited their profession from their ancestors. They were typically trained in the use of weapons and were expected to provide military service when called upon by the king.

**133.** Minor Rock Edicts are the first edicts in the Indian language of Emperor Ashoka and Erragudi inscription was inscribed in the 3rd century and was written in the Prakrit language and Brahmi script. This site is called Yerragudi site or Suvarnagiri site and is located in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh.

**134.** Shunga Dynasty: It was founded by Pushyamitra. There were ten Shunga rulers. Their capital was Patliputra. Pushyamitra was the commander of the last Mauryan emperor Vrihadraata.

**135.** Kushana rulers adopted the title devaputra, or "son of god", possibly inspired by Chinese rulers who called themselves sons of heaven. Their history has been reconstructed from inscriptions and textual traditions. The notions of kingship they wished to project are perhaps best evidenced in their coins and sculpture. Some historians feel this indicates that the Kushanas considered themselves godlike.

**136.** Samaharta was officer in charge of assessment and collection of revenue from various parts of the kingdom or provinces. He looked after the income and expenditure by supervising the works of the Akshapatiladyaksha (accountant general).

**137.** In 298 BCE, Chandragupta Maurya renounced his rule, handing over power to his son Bindusara and traveled south

to a cave at Shraavanabelogola. There, he meditated without eating or drinking for five weeks until he died of starvation in a practice known as *sallekhana* or *santhara*.

**138.** The invasion in ancient India was first done by the Greeks and then by Sakas and then Kushanas. The Greek conquests of India took place in the years before the Common Era, and a rich trade flourished between India and Greece, especially in silk, spices, and gold.

**139.** Vima Kadphises was the son of Sadakshana and the father of Kanishka, according to the Rabatak inscription. He was Kadphises II, and during his reign, he struck a vast quantity of gold coins and extended the Kushan Kingdom to the east of the Indus. He extended his empire upto Bihar.

**140.** The earliest epigraphic reference to Chandragupta Maurya is to be found in the Junagadh Rock Inscription of Rudradaman I. This inscription was written in 150 CE by Rudradaman I, a king of the Western Satraps. In the inscription, Rudradaman mentions that he repaired a dam on the Sudarshana Lake, which was originally built by Chandragupta Maurya.

**141.** The pennants of the Mauryan chariots were white with a peacock motif on them. The peacock was the dynastic symbol of the Mauryan Empire, representing power and authority. The white colour of the pennants symbolized purity and peace. They were made of silk or linen, about 3 feet long and 2 feet wide, and attached to the top of the chariot's mast. They fluttered in the wind, making a loud noise that could be heard from a distance. The pennants were a symbol of the Mauryan Empire's power and prestige, used to intimidate enemies and inspire loyalty among the empire's subjects.

**142.** Asoka's III-rd Major Rock Edict instructed his officials to spread the Dhamma and encourage people to be generous to Brahmins and Sramanas. He believed that generosity to religious practitioners created goodwill and harmony in society, leading to increased prosperity and happiness. Asoka emphasized the importance of religious tolerance and respect for all faiths, and his edict is a valuable record of his belief in the power of generosity to create a more just and peaceful world.

**143.** The statement that Brahmins strictly practised vegetarianism and never took intoxicants is not correct. While it is true that Brahmins were expected to follow a strict code of conduct, which included abstaining from meat and alcohol, there is evidence to suggest that some Brahmins did not adhere to these rules. For example, the Arthashastra, a text on political science and economics written in the 3rd century BCE, mentions that Brahmins could be found working as cooks and brewers, both of which involved handling meat and alcohol.

**144.** The *Milinda Panho* is a Buddhist text that records a dialogue between the Buddhist sage Nāgasena and the Indo-Greek king Menander. It is not a Sanskrit work, but a Pali work, an ancient Indian language closely related to Sanskrit. Although there is debate about whether the text was originally written in Sanskrit or Pali, the majority of scholars believe it was written in Pali, as the surviving Pali version is much more complete than the Chinese translation, and the text's use of Pali terminology is consistent with other Pali works of the same period. The *Milinda Panho* is now considered a canonical work in the Theravada tradition of Buddhism and is most commonly studied and recited in the Pali language.

**145.** After the decline of the Kushana Empire Patliputra came under the hands of Scythians. Patliputra was ruled

by Murundas, Scythian Governor.

**146.** The Shaka rulers were a group of nomadic people who migrated from Central Asia to various parts of India from the 2nd century BCE to the 4th century CE. Rudradaman was a Shaka ruler who ruled over the western Indian region of Malwa and parts of Gujarat from around AD 130 to 150. He was known for his military campaigns against other regional powers like the Satavahanas and the Yaudheyas.

**147.** The Sunga Dynasty was established by the Pushyamitra Sunga by overthrowing the Maurya Dynasty in 185 BCE. Pushyamitra Sunga ruled for about 36 years from 185 BCE to 149 BCE. There were 10 rulers in the Sunga dynasty who in total ruled for 112 years.

**148.** Satakarni I vanquished Kalinga after the passing of Kharavela. Hala arranged the *Gatha Saptashati*. Hence, Pair 2 is correctly matched. It is known as *Gaha Sattasai* in Prakrit, it is an assortment of sonnets with generally love as the subject. Gautamiputra Satakarni is viewed as the best lord of the Satavahana tradition.

**149.** The Greeks, the Sakas, the Parthians and the Kushans ultimately lost their identity in India. They became completely Indianized in course of time. They came to be considered second-class Kshatriyas. The Kushan rulers worshipped both Shiva and the Buddha, and the images of these two gods appeared on the Kushan coins. In no other period of ancient Indian history were foreigners assimilated into Indian society on such a large scale as they were in post-Maurya times.

**150.** The Great Stupa of Sanchi was originally built in the 3rd century BCE by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka. It is located at Sanchi Town in the Raisen District of Madhya Pradesh. The Great Stupa and Sanchi's other Buddhist monuments were collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1989.

**151.** Arthashastra suggests that the king should often visit towns and kingdom in disguise to understand the ground realities and monitor the administration's functioning. This was not the part of daily activity of the Mauryan King.

**152.** In the separate Kalinga Edicts (Dhauili and Jaugada), Ashoka also articulated his popular doctrine of administration i.e. "All men are my children. As I desire for my children that they all should enjoy bliss and happiness in this world and next, the same I desire also for all my men".

**153.** The Mauryan administration was highly centralized and had a council of ministers called *Mantriparishad*. The *Tirthas* were the highest category of officials in the administration and were the administrative departments.

**154.** *Mudra Rakshasa* describes how Chandragupta Maurya got Chanakya's assistance to overthrow the Nandas. It is a Sanskrit-language play by Vishakhadatta that narrates the ascent of king Chandragupta Maurya to power in India. It also gives an excellent account of the prevailing socio-economic conditions of that time.

**155.** According to the *Harshacharita*, Pushyamitra, commander-in-chief of the Maurya army, killed the Maurya king Brihadratha while Brihadratha was inspecting his troops. This brought an end to Maurya rule in 187 BCE and Pushyamitra usurped the throne. Pushyamitra's empire extended over only part of the Maurya empire.

**156.** The last ruler of the Shunga dynasty, Devabhuti, was overthrown by his minister Vasudeva, who founded the Kanva dynasty in 75 BCE. The Kanva ruler allowed the kings of the

Shunga dynasty to continue to rule in obscurity in a corner of their former dominions. The first ruler of the Kanva dynasty was Vasudeva after whose Gotra the dynasty was named. He was succeeded by his son Bhumimitra. Coins bearing the legend Bhumimitra have been discovered from the Panchala realm. Bhumimitra ruled for fourteen years and was later succeeded by his son Narayana. Narayana ruled for twelve years. He was succeeded by his son Susharman who was the last king of the Kanva dynasty.

**157.** The silk textile industries in the country got a lot of encouragement from the import of Chinese silk. A special type of cloth was made in Mathura, which was called Shataka.

**158.** The earliest inscriptions recording land grants were issued by the Satvahanas. They were also the first rulers to make land grants to Brahmanas. The Satvahanas is also known as Andhras. They existed from the early 1st century BCE and the 3rd century BCE based in the Deccan region. Thus, under the Satvahanas, the earliest inscriptional information on land grants is provided.

**159.** Bindusara, the second Mauryan emperor, was called 'Amitrochates' by the Greeks. The name means 'the destroyer of enemies' in Sanskrit.

## GUPTA & POST GUPTAS AGE

**160.** The Iron Pillar at Mehrauli in Delhi is believed to record the achievements of Chandragupta II. Chandragupta II, also known as Vikramaditya, is regarded as one of the greatest rulers of the Gupta dynasty. Chandragupta II was the son of Samudragupta and Datta Devi.

**161.** Harshvardhana declared war against Shashanka of the Gauda kingdom. After his brother's death, at the age of 16, Harshvardhana became the undisputed ruler of Thaneshwar and declared war on Shashanka to avenge his brother and embarked upon a campaign of Digvijay, i.e. to conquer the world.

**162.** Five types of gold coins issued by Skandagupta are the Archer type, Horseman type, King and queen type, Lion-slayer type and Chhatra type. Bull type is a type of silver coin issued by him. It is not a type of Gold coin. Hence, we conclude that the Bull type is not a gold coin issued by him.

**163.** Agrahara was land, village, or fields that were given to Brahmins. Agrahara in Sanskrit refers to "land exempt from leasing rights". The Agraharas were exempted from taxes and had other administrative immunities and were also known as Agraharam, Chaturvedimangalams, Ghatoka, and Boya in ancient times.

**164.** Vikramaditya VI, whose court poet Bilhan wrote his biography, was the ruler of the Chalukya dynasty. The Chalukya dynasty was established by Pulakeshin I in 543. Pulakeshin I took Vatapi (modern Badami in Bagalkot district, Karnataka) under his control and made it his capital.

**165.** Fa-Hien was a Chinese pilgrim, who visited India during the reign of Chandra Gupta II. His primary aim was to visit the Buddhist religious places and to take with him the copies of the Buddhist religious texts.

**166.** Hiuen Tsang, a Chinese pilgrim came to India during the reign of Harshvardhan. He wrote a book 'Shi-Yu-Ki' (the world of the west) after going back to China. He studied at Nalanda and later taught there only for nine years.

**167.** The Pallavas of Tondaimandalam were the dynasty in South India that issued their documents first in Prakrit and later in Sanskrit. The Pallavas initially used Prakrit, an ancient Indian language, for issuing their documents. Over time, they transitioned to Sanskrit, a classical language, for the composition of inscriptions and official documents.

**168.** The Gupta Empire (320-550 CE) is considered the golden age of Indian art and architecture. During this period, there was a flowering of creativity and innovation in all aspects of the arts, including architecture. Gupta architecture is characterized by its use of intricate carvings, graceful proportions, and harmonious balance.

**169.** The feudal system in India had a number of different consequences, some of which were more important than the extension of arable land. The vassals, in turn, were obligated to provide military service to the king or emperor in return for their land. This system of land grants and military service helped to create a strong central government in India. Finally, the feudal system helped to spread Indian culture throughout the subcontinent. This was because the vassals were often required to adopt the language and customs of the king or emperor. This helped to create a more unified Indian culture. In conclusion, the extension of arable land was not the most important consequence of the ancient Indian feudal system.

**170.** Mahabalipuram Monuments were built in Pallava dynasty architecture. This group of sanctuaries, founded by the Pallava kings, was carved out of rock along the Coromandel coast in the 7th and 8th centuries. It is known especially for its rathas (temples in the form of chariots), mandapas (cave sanctuaries).

**171.** Sushruta is the First surgeon in history and is also known as the Father of Plastic Surgery. "Sushruta Samhita" the first book on Plastic Surgery was written by him. Sushruta was contemporary to Gupta Era (320-550 AD).

**172.** Ravikirti composed prashasti of Chalukya ruler Pulakeshin II. The prashasti is an inscription that praises the achievements of the ruler. Pulakeshin II was a prominent ruler of the Chalukya dynasty and his reign is considered to be a golden era in the history of Karnataka.

**173.** Samudragupta was the son of the Gupta king Chandragupta I and Queen Kumaradevi, who came from a Lichchhavi family. His fragmentary Eran stone inscription states that his father selected him as the successor because of his "devotion, righteous conduct, and valour".

**174.** Chandragupta II's daughter, Prabhavati Gupta, was a queen of the southern Vakataka kingdom. She married Rudrasena II of the Vakataka Dynasty and served as regent to her sons Divakarsena and Damodarsena after her husband died.

**175.** Varahmihir Was an astronomer believed to be one of the nine gems in Chandragupta II's court. His book 'Brihatsamhita' is an encyclopedia of astronomy, botany, physical geography, and natural history. His other works are Pancha Siddhantika, Brihat Jataka etc.

**176.** Samudragupta was the greatest king of the Gupta dynasty. The most detailed and authentic record of Samudragupta's reign is preserved in the Prayaga Prasasti/Allahabad pillar inscription, composed by his court poet Harisena. Samudragupta's military campaigns justify the description of him as the Napoleon of India by V.A. Smith.

- 177.** Chandragupta II, commonly known as Vikramaditya, was a great ruler of northern India who reigned from 380 AD to 415 AD. He was the grandson of Chandragupta I and the son of Samudra Gupta. Chandragupta-II's mother was queen Datta or Dattadevi, described as Mahadevi.
- 178.** Prabhavati Gupta a powerful monarch in early Indian history was the daughter of Chandragupta II and queen Kubera. She was married to Rudrasena II and remained active for 20 years in public life.
- 179.** Ravikirti's Aihole inscription describes the victory of Pulakesin II over Harshavardhana, the ruler of the northern Indian empire. Pulakesin II defeated Harsha in 618 AD on the banks of the River Narmada, when Harsha attempted to expand his empire towards the southern peninsula of India.
- 180.** Hiuen-Tsang visited India during Harshavardhana's rule. Huen Tsang or Xuanzang was a Chinese Buddhist Traveler who belongs to the early Tang times of China. He studied at Nalanda University. During his stay in India, he visited various places in northern and southern India.
- 181.** The Prayag Prashasti provides us information about the achievements of Samudragupta, the Gupta dynasty emperor. It was composed by Harisena, the court poet of Samudragupta, and was engraved on the Ashoka pillar brought from Kaushambi.
- 182.** Aihole inscription was written by Ravikirti who was a poet during the reign of Pulakeshi II. Aihole is situated in Karnataka and is widely recognized as the Cradle of Indian Architecture. It served as the capital of Chalukyas.
- 183.** Chandragupta II is known as Vikramaditya, a powerful emperor (380-415 AD) of northern India. He was the son of Samudra Gupta who established a vast empire. Chandragupta II subjugated (From 388 to 409 AD) Gujarat, the north of Bombay, Saurashtra, in western India, and Malwa.
- 184.** The terms 'Rajuka' was used for the Revenue officials. The administrative system during the Gupta dynasty was found more or less similar to that of the Mauryan Empire. At the time of the Gupta rule, there was political harmony in ancient India.
- 185.** The Gupta gold and silver coinage was initially based on the coins of the Kushan Empire and the Roman Empire. The Kushanas were known for their gold coins featuring the images of their rulers and deities, and the Guptas adapted these designs for their own coinage. The Roman coins, on the other hand, were widely used in trade and commerce in the ancient world, and the Guptas likely drew inspiration from their designs and inscriptions for their silver coinage.
- 186.** According to the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang, Harshavardhan was a supporter of Buddhism. While it is true that Harsha was a patron of Buddhism and supported Buddhist monasteries and institutions, he did not necessarily favor or support the Brahmanical religion, which is also known as Hinduism.
- 187.** The Gupta temple-building activity represents an evolution from the earlier tradition of rock-cut shrines which now reached a whole new level. It marks the formative phase of temple construction in India, but it was a significant phase that continued to influence temple-building right up to the medieval period. It is evident from Dashavatara temple at Deogarh in Jhansi district (UP).
- 188.** Pulakesin II was the greatest king of the Chalukya of Badami. His accession to the throne in the year 609 CE, marks the beginning of an important epoch in the history of Deccan. Pulakesin II sent a complimentary embassy to the Persian king Khusrau II in 625-626 CE.
- 189.** Dhruvadevi was the widow of Ramgupta, the elder brother of Chandragupta II. After Ramgupta's death, Chandragupta II married Dhruvadevi to strengthen his political alliances and legitimize his claim to the throne. This marriage also helped Chandragupta II consolidate his power and expand his empire.
- 190.** The tripartite struggle was a contest between the Palas, Gurjara-Pratiharas, and Rashtrakutas for control of Kanyakubja in the 8th-9th century CE, with the Pratiharas ultimately gaining power in the north after the conquest of Kannauj due to domestic seditions in the Rashtrakuta family.
- 191.** Allahabad Prashasti is a pillar inscription of Samudragupta found at Allahabad and written in Sanskrit. It was composed by Harisena.
- 192.** Varahamihira wrote Brihat Samhita which deals with astronomy, astrology, botany, natural history, and physical geography. His Panchasiddhantika throws light on five astronomical theories (Siddhanta), two of which bear thorough familiarity and close resemblance with Greek astronomical practice.
- 193.** Kumargupta founded Nalanda University in the 5th century A.D. He was also called Shakraditya. Nalanda was a huge monastic-educational establishment. Primary teaching focus: Mahayana Buddhism, yet included other 'secular' subjects as well- Like, Grammar, logic, epistemology, and sciences
- 194.** Vindhya-shakti was the founder of the Vakataka Dynasty, which ruled in central India from the 3rd to the 5th century CE. He was succeeded by his son Pravarasena I, who expanded the dynasty's territory and established its capital at Vatsagulma (modern-day Washim in Maharashtra).
- 195.** Pulakeshin II defeated Harsha on the banks of Narmada in the winter of 618-619 CE. Pulakeshin entered into a treaty with Harsha, with the Narmada River designated as the border between the Chalukya Empire and that of Harshavardhana.
- 196.** Harshavardhana belonged to the Pushyabhuti dynasty. Harshavardhana succeeded the throne in 606 A.D. He conquered Magadha and established his capital at Kannauj.
- 197.** Harshavardhana organized two religious conferences: the Kannauj assembly, and the Prayag assembly. Harsha, himself a devotee of Lord Shiva in his early days, in his later years, he was inclined towards Buddhism. After accepting the Mahayana, a sect of Buddhism he stood as its redoubtable champion and also patronized his earlier religion side by side with Buddhism.
- 198.** The term Prathama-Kulika in the Gupta period refers to the head artisan or craftsman in a guild. These guilds regulated the production and distribution of goods and ensured fair working conditions for their members. Therefore, the correct option is Chief Craftsman.
- 199.** Mallikarjuna was the Shilahara King who was defeated by the Solanki King Kumarapala. Kumarapala (1143-1172 CE) was a king from the Chaulukya (Solanki) dynasty of Gujarat. His capital was Anahilapataka (modern Patan). Kumarapala was a keen and generous patron of arts and architecture.
- 200.** Harshavardhana belonged to the Pushyabhuti dynasty which was founded by Naravardhana in the 5th or beginning of the 6th century A.D. The dynasty flourished under



Prabhakarvardhana, father of Harshavardhana, who assumed the title of Maharajadhiraja.

## SANGAM AGE

**201.** Nedeon was not related to Sangam State Chera. Sangam period (from 3rd century BC to 3rd century AD) is the phase of history which existed in ancient Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Udiyanjeral (or Uthiyancheralatan) was the first recorded Chera ruler of the Sangam period in ancient South India. He was succeeded by his son, NedumCheralathan, or Nedunjeralathan

**202.** Silappadikaram is a literary work in Tamil. It is held in high regard by the Tamil people. It is written by Ilango Adigal. He was a prince. In the epic we get to know about Kannagi, who having lost her husband to a miscarriage of justice at the court of the Pandyan Dynasty, wreaks her revenge on his kingdom.

**203.** Pallavas is the dynasty which was not in power during the Sangam Age. During the Sangam Age, three dynasties- the Cheras, the Cholas, and the Pandayas ruled. The main source of information about these kingdoms is traced from the literary references of the Sangam Period.

**204.** The Five Epics of the Sangam age are: Silapathigaram, Manimeghalai, Civakachintamani, Kundalkesi, Valaiyapathi.

**205.** Tolkappiyam was written by Tolkappiyar in Tamil. It is a work on Tamil Grammar. It also gives an idea of the Political and Social scenario at that time. The Tamil language was used in the Sangam Literature.

**206.** The king was assisted by a large body of officials who were divided into five councils. They

were ministers (amaichar), priests (anthanar), military commanders (senapathi), envoys (thuthar) and spies (orarr). The military administration was also efficiently organized during the Sangam Age.

**207.** Rajendra Chola 3 was the last ruler of the Chola dynasty. The Chola dynasty was the greatest of all South Indian dynasties. Chola ruled maritime islands such as the Maldives and Sri Lanka, indicating that he had a highly skilled and vast naval power. Vijayalaya Chola is considered the founder of the Chola dynasty.

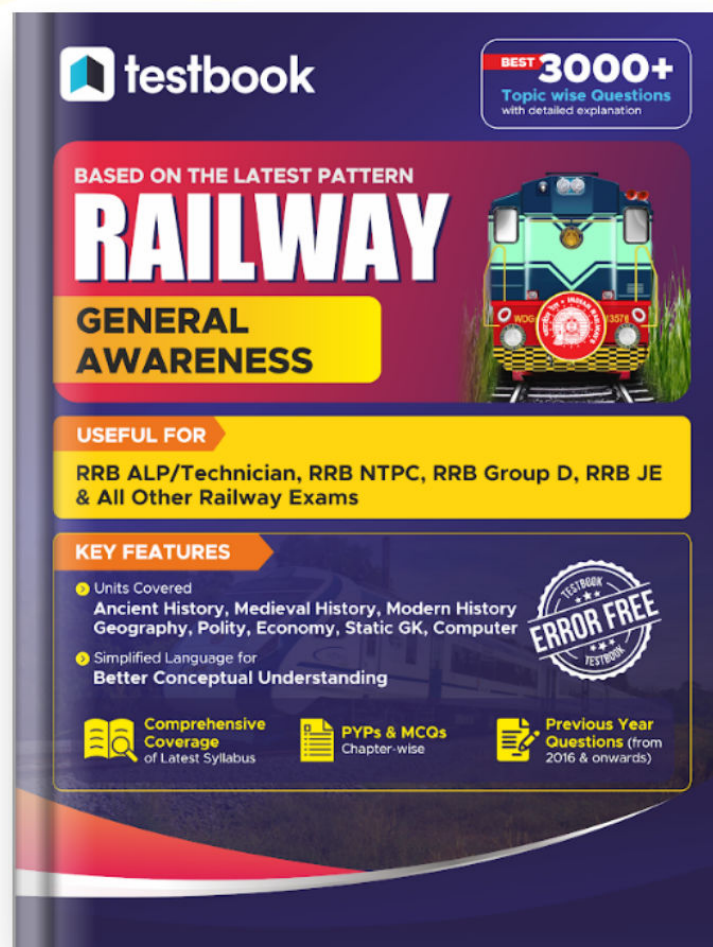
**208.** From the 6th century BCE to the 3rd century CE, the Sangam period encompassed ancient Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and parts of Sri Lanka (then known as Tamilakam). It was named after the illustrious Madurai-based Sangam academies of poets and scholars.

**209.** The Sangam assemblies were held in Madura city. The period roughly between the 3rd century B.C. and 3rd century A.D. in South India (the area lying to the south of river Krishna and Tungabhadra) is known as Sangam Period. It has been named after the Sangam academies held during that period that flourished under the royal patronage of the Pandya kings of Madurai.

**210.** Three Sangams (assembly of Tamil poets) were held in South India. The period roughly between the 3rd century B.C. and 3rd century A.D. in South India (the area lying to the south of river Krishna and Tungabhadra) is known as Sangam Period. It has been named after the Sangam academies held during that period that flourished under the royal patronage of the Pandya kings of Madurai.



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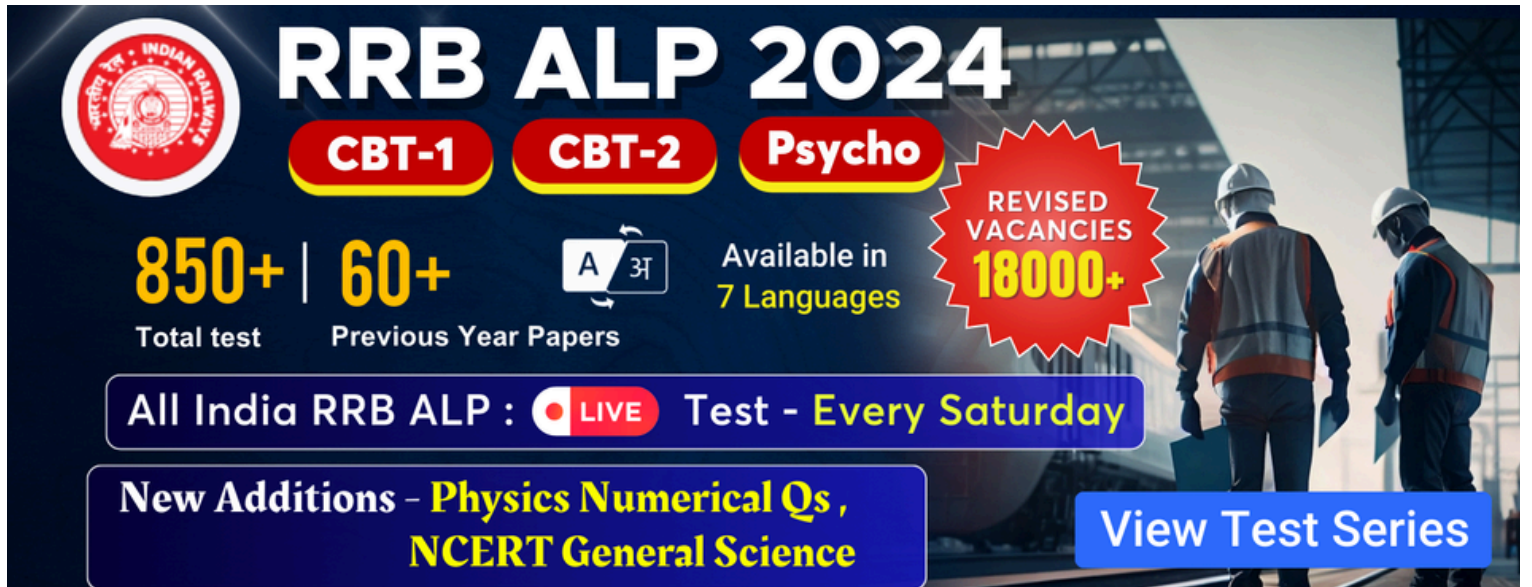
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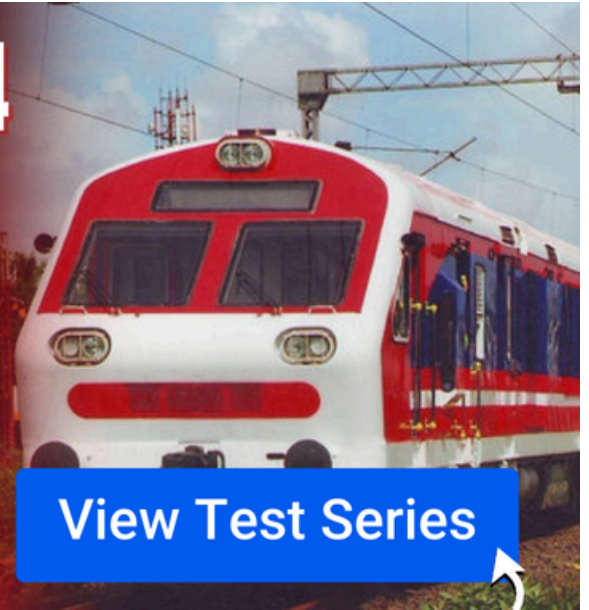
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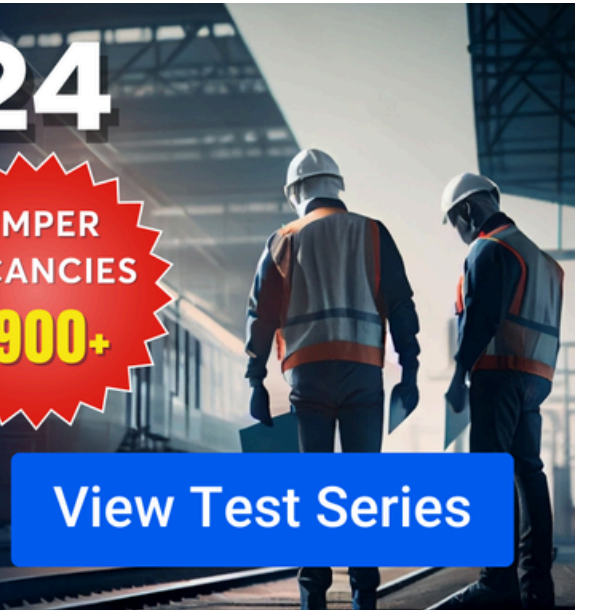
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