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70TH BPSC PRELIMS RE-EXAM 2025

- During the Delhi Sultanate, the designation 'Muqaddam or Chaudhuri' was used for.
 - Village headmen
 - Village accountant
 - Revenue officials
 - None of the above

Ans: (a)

Explanation

- In the administrative setup of the Delhi Sultanate, rural areas were managed through a structured village system.
- The term 'Muqaddam' or 'Chaudhuri' referred to the local head of a village who was responsible for maintaining law and order, ensuring tax collection, and representing the village before state officials.
- Though they sometimes collected revenue, their primary identity was that of a village leader or representative, not a professional accountant or revenue officer.
- These individuals often held a respected social position and played a key role in mediating between the state and villagers.

- The term Zillillah was first used by:
 - Alauddin Khilji
 - Akbar
 - Balban
 - Iltutmish

Ans: (c)

Explanation

Reign of Balban:

- Balban was a key architect of the Delhi Sultanate, particularly its governance and institutions.
- Monarchical Ideology:**
 - Balban, who ruled as Sultan from 1266 to 1287, was the first to claim the title Zill-i-Ilahi or Zillillah, asserting that he was the "Shadow of God" on earth. This was part of his policy to elevate the status of the Sultan and emphasize the divine nature of

kingship, thereby strengthening the authority and sanctity of the monarchy.

- He disbanded the Chahalgani (the group of 40 nobles).
- Court Reforms:**
 - Instituted strict court discipline and new rituals such as:
 - Sijada (prostration).**
 - Paibos (kissing the Sultan's feet).**
 - Kept a magnificent court and popularized the Persian holiday of Nauroz.
- 'Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi' was written by:
 - Shams Siraj Afif
 - Yahya Sarhindi
 - Minhaj Siraj
 - Isami

Ans: (a)

Explanation

- Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi was written during the reign of Mohammad Bin Tughlaq and Firoz Shah Tughlaq. The work is divided into two parts: the first part was written by Ziauddin Barani, and the second part by Shams-i-Siraj Afif, both originally in Persian, which was completed in 1357 CE.
- Primarily a history of the sultans of Delhi, it begins with the reign of Sultan Ghiyas ud Din Balban and concludes in the sixth year of Firoz Shah Tughlaq's rule. It covers Balban's dynasty, the Khaljis and the Tughlaqs.
- The oldest civilization in the world is:
 - Indus valley
 - Chinese
 - Egyptian
 - Mesopotamia (Iraq)

Ans: (d)

Explanation

- The Mesopotamian civilization, located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in present-day Iraq, is widely regarded as the earliest known urban civilization, emerging around 3500 BCE.

- It gave birth to the earliest writing system (cuneiform), city-states like Sumer, and advancements in law, astronomy, and architecture.
- The Indus Valley Civilization existed roughly from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE, the Egyptian Civilization from 3150 BCE to 332 BCE, and the Chinese Civilization from around 2070 BCE to 1600 BCE
- While other ancient cultures like the Indus Valley, Egyptian, and Chinese also flourished early, Mesopotamia predates them in archaeological records.



5. Who was the founder of the Maurya Empire ?

- Bindusara
- Brihadratha
- Ashoka
- Chandragupta Maurya

Ans: (d)

Explanation

- Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of the Mauryan Empire in ancient India around 321 BCE.
- With guidance from his advisor Chanakya (Kautilya), he overthrew the Nanda dynasty in Magadha (present-day Bihar) and established a strong centralized empire.
- Chandragupta unified most of the Indian subcontinent under a centralized administration, with his empire extending from the eastern Indus Valley to Bengal and parts of Central and Southern India.

Key Rulers of the Mauryan Empire:

- **Chandragupta Maurya (c. 321–297 BCE):** Established the dynasty under the guidance of his chief minister Chanakya (Kautilya).
- **Bindusara (c. 297–273 BCE):** Chandragupta's son; expanded the empire further south and maintained diplomatic relations with Hellenistic kingdoms.
- **Ashoka the Great (c. 268–232 BCE):** Grandson of Chandragupta, brought the empire to its greatest territorial extent, famously converted to Buddhism after the Kalinga War, and promoted non-violence

and the spread of Buddhism, both within and outside India.

- **Brihadratha:** The last Mauryan ruler, Brihadratha, was assassinated in 185 BCE by his general Pushyamitra Shunga, marking the end of the dynasty.
6. Which of the following is not the famous centre for Buddhist Learning in Ancient India?
- Nagpur
 - Valabhi
 - Vikramshila
 - Nalanda

Ans: (a)

Explanation

- Nagpur was not known as a centre of Buddhist learning in ancient times. It holds cultural relevance in modern Buddhist movements but lacks ancient monastic or academic tradition.
 - Valabhi (in present-day Gujarat) was a respected learning hub, especially under Maitraka rulers. It was significantly influenced by Buddhism.
 - Vikramshila (in Bihar), built by Dharmapala, of the Pala Dynasty was a major centre for advanced Buddhist studies.
 - Nalanda, also in Bihar, is world-renowned for its massive Buddhist university, drawing scholars from across Asia.
7. The script written on Ashoka's Pillars is:
- Brahmi
 - Samaritan
 - Pali
 - Sanskrit

Ans: (a)

Explanation

- The inscriptions on Ashoka's Pillars are written in the Brahmi script, which was the earliest script used in ancient India.
 - Ashoka, the Mauryan Emperor, had these inscriptions carved on pillars and rocks across the Indian subcontinent to communicate his edicts about governance, morality, and Buddhism.
 - Though some of Ashoka's edicts are written in Pali, the script itself used for the inscriptions is Brahmi.
 - Sanskrit was also used in later inscriptions, but the Brahmi script was dominant during Ashoka's time.
8. Which of the following is not associated with Chandragupta Maurya?
- Susima
 - Sanchi
 - Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman
 - Vishnugupta

Ans: (b)

Explanation

- Sanchi is a famous archaeological site located in Madhya Pradesh, known for its Buddhist stupas, monolithic pillars, and beautiful sculptures.
 - While Sanchi is closely associated with Emperor Ashoka, the grandson of Chandragupta Maurya, it is not directly linked to Chandragupta Maurya himself.
- Ashoka, after his conversion to Buddhism, contributed to the construction of the stupas and other structures at Sanchi to promote Buddhism.
- Chandragupta Maurya, on the other hand, is primarily associated with the founding of the Maurya Empire and his alliance with Chanakya for the consolidation of power.
- **Vishnugupta:** This is another name for Chanakya, the great teacher and philosopher, who played a crucial role in the rise of Chandragupta Maurya and the establishment of the Maurya Empire.

9. Name the major city of the Indus valley civilization that had trade with West Asia.

- (a) Ropar (b) Lothal (c) Kalibangan (d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation

- **Lothal:**
 - Lothal, located in present-day Gujarat, India, was a major city of the Indus Valley Civilization (Harappan Civilization) known for its well-planned dockyard, indicating its role in maritime trade.
 - It had trade links with West Asia, evidenced by the discovery of seals, beads, and other artifacts that suggest interactions with the civilizations of Mesopotamia and other regions of West Asia.
- **Ropar:** Ropar (or Rupnagar) is an important Harappan site but is not specifically known for its trade with West Asia. Its prominence is more related to its role as an important cultural and industrial center.
- **Kalibangan:** Kalibangan is another key Harappan site located in Rajasthan. While it was significant for its agriculture and pottery, there is no direct evidence of trade with West Asia, unlike Lothal, which had well-established maritime trade links.



ART AND CULTURE

10. In India, which of the following city has been declared as the first "City of Literature" by UNESCO?

- (a) Jabalpur in M.P. (b) Kozhikode in Kerala
(c) Kolkata in W.B. (d) Nasik in Maharashtra

Ans: (b)

Explanation

- Kozhikode, also known as Calicut, was officially designated as India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature' on October 31, 2023.
- This recognition was granted under the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), which aims to promote cooperation among cities that prioritize creativity and cultural industries in their development plans.
- Kozhikode's rich literary heritage, vibrant community of writers, poets, and scholars, along with its numerous libraries and publishing houses, contributed to this honor.
- The city's designation acknowledges its commitment to fostering literary culture and promoting literature as a key component of sustainable urban development.

11. Chitrakoot temple is located in which State of India?

- (a) Chhattisgarh (b) Orissa
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans: (c)

Explanation

- Chitrakoot region extends slightly into Uttar Pradesh as well, the main pilgrimage sites and temples lie in Madhya Pradesh.
- It is believed to be the place where Lord Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana spent a significant part of their 14-year exile.
- According to the epic Ramayana, Chitrakoot is the place where Bharat, brother of Lord Rama came to visit him and asked him to return to Ayodhya and rule the kingdom. It is believed that the supreme Gods of Hinduism, (Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva) took incarnations here.
- The Chitrakoot temples, including the famed Ram Ghat, Kamadgiri, and Bharat Milap Temple, are located primarily in the Satna district of Madhya Pradesh.

12. The temple at Deogarh near Jhansi and the sculptures in the temple at Garhwa near Allahabad are important remains of:

- (a) Rashtrakuta art (b) Gupta art
(c) Maurya art (d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation

- The temple at Deogarh (near Jhansi) and the sculptures in the temple at Garhwa (Near Allahabad) are important remains of Gupta art.
 - The Gupta period (around the 4th to 6th century CE) is often considered the "Golden Age" of Indian art and culture.
 - The Deogarh temple is known for its intricate sculptural work, and it is one of the finest examples of early Gupta temple architecture, showcasing the art and style of the Gupta dynasty.
 - The Garhwa temple also features sculptures that reflect the artistic achievements of the Gupta era, especially the fine details in the depiction of Hindu deities and mythological themes.
- **Rashtrakuta art:** This period (around 8th to 10th century CE) is associated with architectural works like the Ellora caves, not the sculptures at Deogarh or Garhwa.
- **Maurya art:** The Maurya dynasty (around 3rd century BCE) is more known for monumental works like the Ashoka pillars and Mauryan sculptures. The Gupta era is the relevant period for the temples in Deogarh and Garhwa.

70TH BPSC PRELIMS EXAM, 2024

13. Consider the following about the Ajivika sect:

1. Makhali Gosala was its most important leader.
2. The central idea of the philosophy was "NIYATI" that is fate.
3. The discrimination on the basis of caste and class.
4. The Ajivikas had regular sabhas for meetings.

Choose the correct answer from the following codes:

- (a) 2, 3 and 4 are correct
(b) 1, 2 and 4 are correct
(c) 1 and 4 are correct
(d) More than one of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation

- Makhali Gosala is considered the founder and most important leader of the Ajivika sect.
- **The central idea of the philosophy was "NIYATI" which is fate:**
 - The core belief of the Ajivikas was the concept of "Niyati," which means absolute fate.
 - They believed that everything was predetermined and human actions had no real consequence.

- **The Ajivikas had regular sabhas for meetings**
 - While specific information about their meeting structure might be limited, sources indicate that the Ajivikas were a group of wandering ascetics, suggesting they likely had some form of gatherings or discussions.
- **About Ajivika sect:**
 - The Ajivika sect was an ancient ascetic group in India that believed in a deterministic view of the universe, where everything is predetermined.
 - Founded by Makkhali Gosala in the 5th century BCE, the sect opposed the sacrificial rituals of Brahmanical religion and the monistic theories of the Upanishads.
 - They also rejected the concept of free will and karma, believing that all actions and events were preordained.

14. Consider the following about the King "Praversena":
1. He was the real founder of the Vakataka dynasty.
 2. His empire extended from Bundelkhand in the north to Hyderabad in South.
 3. He succeeded his father king Vindhyaashakti.
 4. He is mentioned in Puranas.

Which of the above statements are correct ?

- (a) 1 and 2 both
- (b) 1 and 3 both
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) More than one of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation

- King Pravarasena is generally considered as the true founder of the Vakataka dynasty. He is also mentioned in the Puranas, ancient Indian texts that often describe the reigns of rulers.
- While sources differ on the exact extent of his empire, many accounts describe it as stretching from Bundelkhand in the north to Hyderabad in the south.
- Additionally, historical texts also mention Pravarasena as the successor of his father, King Vindhyaashakti.

About Vakataka dynasty:

- The foundation of the Vakataka dynasty is attributed to Vindhyaashakti, although very little information is available about him.
- The Ajanta inscriptions mention the founder of the Vakataka dynasty as an outstanding warrior of his time and the founder of the dynasty.
- He was the only Vakataka ruler who assumed the royal title Samrat. He also assumed the title Haritiputra.
- Pravarasena I expanded the empire by winning a war with the Naga king in the north, extending his rule over a large part of northern India. The inscription

on the Allahabad pillar mentions Rudrasena I, another important ruler, who was followed by Prithvisena I.

- The capital of the Vakataka dynasty during his reign was Kanchanaka.
15. Which of the following great rulers founded the "Haryak Vansh" in ancient Bihar?
- (a) Bimbisara
 - (b) Brihadrath
 - (c) Ajatashatru
 - (d) More than one of the above

Ans: (a)

Explanation

- Bimbisara was the founder of the Haryanka Dynasty (544–413 BC), the first major ruling dynasty of Magadha
- **About Bimbisara:**
 - He ruled from 544 BC to 492 BC, with his capital at Rajagriha (Girivraja).
 - He was crowned at the age of 15, son of chieftain Bhattiya, and also known as Shrenika or Shrenya.
 - He married Kosala Devi (daughter of Maha Kosala), Chellana (Vaishali princess), and Kshema (daughter of Punjab's Madra chief).
 - He invaded and annexed Anga to avenge his father's defeat and established control over the Gangetic delta; received an embassy from Pukkusati of Gandhara.
 - He was a patron of both Jainism and Buddhism; visited Mahavira's Samvarshana and supported Buddha.
 - Ajatashatru (Kunika), his son, later arrested him; Jain texts claim Bimbisara committed suicide, while Buddhist texts say he was killed by Ajatashatru.
- The Brihadratha dynasty, according to the Puranas, was the legendary first ruling dynasty of Magadha. Founded by King Brihadratha, it is traditionally believed to have ruled for over a thousand years, making it the earliest dynasty associated with the Magadha region.

16. Which of the following rulers ruled Assam in the time of Harsha?
- (a) Aswad Jahan
 - (b) Bhaskar Varman
 - (c) King Dahir
 - (d) More than one of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation

- During the time of Harsha (Harshavardhana, who ruled from 606 to 647 CE), Bhaskar Varman was the ruler of Kamarupa (Ancient Assam).

- Bhaskar Varman was a contemporary and ally of Harsha.
- Their alliance was well-documented by the Chinese traveler Xuanzang (Hiuen Tsang), who visited both courts and left detailed records of their reigns and diplomatic relations.
- King Dahir ruled Sindh (in present-day Pakistan) and was defeated by Muhammad bin Qasim in 712 CE, which was several decades after Harsha's death in 647 CE. Therefore, King Dahir was not a contemporary of Harsha.

17. Match the following in context of Asht Pradhan system of Maratha rule:

Official		Department	
A.	Prime Minister	1.	Sachiva
B.	In charge of Correspondence	2.	Peshwa
C.	Finance Minister	3.	Samant
D.	Foreign Minister	4.	Amatya

Choose the correct option:

- (a) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3
- (b) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4
- (c) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2
- (d) More than one of the above

Ans: (a)

Explanation

The Asht Pradhan system was the council of eight ministers introduced by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Empire, to assist in the administration of his kingdom. This system ensured efficient governance by dividing responsibilities among trusted officials.

Minister (Title)	Portfolio/ Department	Main Responsibility
Peshwa	Prime Minister	General administration of the empire
Amatya (Mazumdar)	Finance Minister	Accounts and finances
Sachiv (Shurnavis)	Chief Secretary/ Correspondence	Royal edicts, official correspondence
Mantri (Waqia-Navis)	Interior/Home Minister	Internal affairs, intelligence, espionage
Senapati (Sar-i-Naubat)	Commander-in-Chief	Military affairs, defense
Sumant (Dabir/Samant)	Foreign Minister	Relations with other states, diplomacy
Nyayadhish	Chief Justice	Justice, civil and criminal law

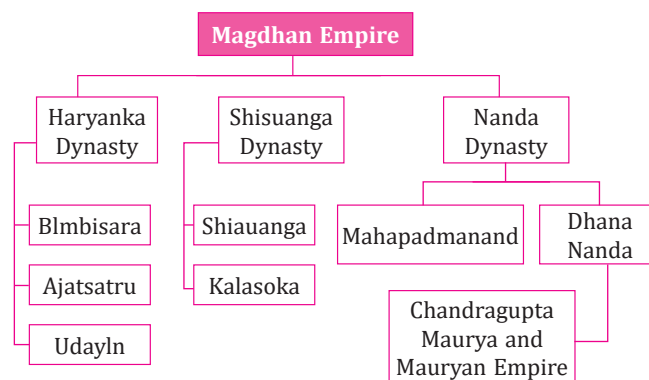
Panditrao	High Priest/ Religious Head	Religious matters, charities, learning
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18. Which dynasty ruled Magadh (Bihar) after the Shishunag dynasty?
- (a) Maurya Vansh
 - (b) Sunga Vansh
 - (c) Nanda Vansh
 - (d) More than one of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation

- The dynasty that ruled Magadh (Bihar) after the Shishunag dynasty was the Nanda Dynasty.
- The Nanda Dynasty was founded by Mahapadma Nanda, who overthrew the last Shishunag ruler and established his own dynasty.



About Nanda Dynasty:

- The Nanda Dynasty was a significant power in ancient India, ruling over Magadha (present-day Bihar) from approximately 345 to 321 BCE.
- Founded by Mahapadma Nanda, they were known for their extensive wealth, military prowess, and territorial expansion.
- The dynasty's reign was marked by a well-organized administration and systematic tax collection.
- Ultimately, the Nanda dynasty was overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya, who established the Mauryan Empire.

19. "Chach Nama" was translated to Persian by.
- (a) Nurrudin Muhammad Aufo
 - (b) Shams-i-Siraj
 - (c) Muhammad Ali Bin Abu Bakr Kufi
 - (d) More than one of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation

- "Chach Nama", also known as Fatehnama-i-Sindh, is an important historical text that chronicles the Arab conquest of Sindh by Muhammad bin Qasim in the 8th century.

- The original text was written in Arabic.
- It was translated into Persian in the 13th century by Muhammad Ali bin Abu Bakr Kufi, who was a Persian scholar in the court of Nasiruddin Qabacha, the then governor of Multan.
- **Significance of Chach Nama:**
 - ◆ It serves as a primary source of information about the early Islamic incursions into India, especially Sindh.
 - ◆ It provides detailed accounts of the fall of the Brahman dynasty (led by Raja Dahir) and the rise of Muslim rule in the region.

20. Malik Kafur also known as "Hazar Dinari" was bought by whom?

- (a) Alauddin Khilji
- (b) Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
- (c) Nusrat Khan
- (d) More than one of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation

- Malik Kafur, also known as "Hazar Dinari" (literally, "the one of a thousand dinars"), was originally a Hindu slave captured during the invasion of Gujarat in 1299.
- He was bought for 1,000 dinars by Nusrat Khan, who was a general under Alauddin Khilji. After his purchase, Nusrat Khan presented Malik Kafur to Sultan Alauddin Khilji, under whom Kafur rose to become a prominent general in the Delhi Sultanate.
- Though Alauddin Khilji later became his patron and benefactor, it was Nusrat Khan who initially brought him to Delhi from Gujarat and introduced him to the Sultan.

21. Which of the following was the capital of the Chera dynasty?

- (a) Kuravur/Karur
- (b) Kanchipuram
- (c) Madurai
- (d) More than one of the above

Ans: (a)

Explanation

- The capital of the Chera dynasty was Kuravur/Karur (also referred to as Vanchi or Karuvur in historical texts).
 - Karur served as the main political and economic center for the Cheras, especially during the Sangam period. Archaeological findings, ancient inscriptions, and literary sources confirm Karur's status as the Chera capital.
- Kanchipuram was the capital of the Pallava dynasty, not the Cheras.
- Madurai was the capital of the Pandya dynasty.

22. Which of the following animals was not known to the people of the Indus Valley Civilization?

- (a) Bull
- (b) Horse
- (c) Elephant
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (b)

Explanation

- Harappans practised agriculture, animals were raised on a large scale. Oxen, buffaloes, goats, sheep, and pigs were domesticated. Humped bulls were favoured by the Harappans. There is evidence of dogs and cats from the outset, and asses and camels were bred and were obviously used as beasts of burden, and the latter may also have been used for ploughing
- **Evidence of the horse** comes from a superficial level of Mohenjodaro and from a **doubtful** terracotta figurine from Lothal.
- The remains of a horse are reported from Surkotada, situated in west Gujarat, and relates to around 2000 BC but the identity is doubtful.
- In any case, the Harappan culture was not horse-centred. **Neither the bones of a horse nor its representations have been traced in early and mature Harappan cultures.**

23. In Indian art, the construction of 'Stupa', 'Chaitya' and 'Vihara' is related to which of the following?

- (a) Ajivika sect
- (b) Vaishnava sect
- (c) Buddhism
- (d) Shaiva sect

Ans. (c)

Explanation

- The construction of 'Stupa', 'Chaitya', and 'Vihara' is primarily associated with Buddhism.
- **Stupa:** A stupa is a dome-shaped structure that serves as a reliquary, enshrining the remains or relics of the Buddha or revered monks. It is a central symbol in Buddhist architecture and represents the Buddha's parinirvana and the path to enlightenment.
 - After the death of Buddha, nine stupas were erected. Eight of them had the relics of Buddha at their medhi while the ninth had the pot in which the relics were originally kept.
- **Chaitya:** A chaitya refers to a Buddhist prayer hall or shrine, typically housing a stupa at its center. These were often rock-cut and served as places for congregational worship and meditation.
- **Vihara:** A vihara is a monastery or residential complex for Buddhist monks. Initially simple dwellings, viharas evolved into complex institutions for learning, meditation, and community life.

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