

PYQ+

GENERAL STUDIES

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3400+

PYQs

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Ancient History

1. CONSTRUCTION OF ANCIENT HISTORY

1. Consider the following statements about the Jorwe culture of the Deccan: (CDS Exam (I), 2024)

1. It covers, practically, the whole of modern Maharashtra except the coastal Konkan district.
2. The Pravara-Godavari valleys seem to have been the nuclear zone.
3. The large sites of this culture yield evidence of shifting agriculture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Ans: (b) The **Jorwe culture** (circa 1400–700 BCE) was the most prominent **Chalcolithic culture** of the **Deccan**, spread across almost all of modern **Maharashtra** (**Nasik, Pune, Dhule, Jalgaon, Marathwada**) except the **coastal Konkan** and **Vidarbha** regions. Named after **Jorwe** (Ahmadnagar), key sites include **Inamgaon, Daimabad, Nevasa**, with the **Pravara-Godavari** valleys (especially **Daimabad**) serving as the **nuclear zone**.

Statement 3 is *incorrect*: Evidence from Inamgaon shows **dry, settled agriculture with irrigation channels, granaries, and crops like barley, wheat, jowar, rice, pulses**. No evidence of shifting agriculture.

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Various Chalcolithic cultures in India - **Ahar-Banas Culture (Rajasthan)**, **Kayatha Culture (Madhya Pradesh)**, **Malwa Culture (Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra)**, **Ochre Coloured Pottery (OCP) Culture (Gangetic Plain)**, **Savalda Culture (Maharashtra)**.

2. Which of the following is/are important markers for archaeologists to identify an archaeological site as a 'center of craft production'? (CAPF 2023)

1. Evidence of raw materials such as stone nodules, whole shells, etc.
2. Geographical expanse of the site
3. Evidence of unfinished objects, rejects and waste material
4. Evidence of variety of pottery

1. Evidence of variety of pottery

Ans: (b) To identify a **center of craft production**, archaeologists look for specific evidence.

Statements 1 and 3 are correct:

- ❖ **Raw Materials:** Presence of **stone nodules, whole shells, copper ore**, and other raw materials indicates these materials were brought to the site for processing into finished goods.
- ❖ **Unfinished Objects, Rejects, and Waste:** Evidence of **unfinished objects, rejected pieces, and waste material** such as **shell chips, slag, or pottery shards** shows active manufacturing and processing at the site.

Statements 2 and 4 are *incorrect*:

- ❖ **Geographical Expanse:** The site's size does not necessarily correlate with **craft production**. Larger settlements may engage in diverse activities, not just specialized production.
- ❖ **Variety of Pottery:** A variety of pottery may suggest cultural or trade aspects, but it doesn't confirm a production center without specific markers like **kilns** or **pottery waste**.

3. Which one among the following statements with reference to the 'Neolithic Period' is not correct? (CAPF 2023)

- (a) The characteristic features of the period included ground and polished stone tools, agriculture, animal domestication and pottery.
- (b) This period is also known as the 'New Stone Age'.
- (c) The characteristic features appeared almost at the same time in various parts of the subcontinent.
- (d) Earliest evidence of agriculture is found from Mehrgarh around 8000 BCE.

Ans: (c) Neolithic (New Stone age) marks the shift from **Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age)** tools to polished stone tools and axes (celts), introducing agriculture, animal domestication, and pottery. Features emerged unevenly across India.

Option (c) is correct: Neolithic traits appeared at different times.

- ❖ **Mehrgarh** (Pakistan) shows early **Neolithic** signs, with agriculture from c. **7000–5500 BCE**, pre-pottery.
- ❖ **Kili Gul Muhammed** (Quetta Valley) reveals **Neolithic occupation** from c. **5500–4500 BCE**.
- ❖ **Gukral** (Kashmir) began settlement around **3000 BCE**, with **pit dwellings**.
- ❖ Earliest **agriculture** evidence from **Mehrgarh** (c. **8000 BCE**) includes **wheat, barley** and domesticated **animals**.

Options (a), (b) and (d) are incorrect: Neolithic includes ground tools, agriculture, animal domestication, pottery. Mehrgarh (c. 8000 BCE) offers earliest wheat, barley evidence.

4. Where is the Vikramkhola Cave located? (CDS-2 2023)

Ans: (a) **Vikramkhola Cave** (also Bikramkhola) is a prehistoric rock shelter in Belpahar Reserve Forest, ~12 km from **Belpahar, Jharsuguda district, Odisha**. Dated to circa 3000–1500 BCE, it features rock art and pictographic inscriptions made with red ochre, later incised.

Options (b), (c) and (d) are incorrect:

- ❖ **Bihar:** Known for **Barabar Caves** (3rd century BCE), no link to Vikramkhola.
- ❖ **Telangana:** Prehistoric sites like Bhongir, Kurnool – not Vikramkhola.
- ❖ **West Bengal:** Sites like **Chandraketugarh**, but no prehistoric cave with inscriptions.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Levallois Technique': (CDS-2 2023)

1. It refers to making perforated Harappan pottery.

2. It refers to making prehistoric flake tools.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b) **Levallois Technique** is a specialized stone tool-making method from the **Middle Palaeolithic period (c. 300,000–50,000 BCE)**. It involves shaping a stone core to produce a single, sharp-edged **flake tool** with precision. These tools were used for **cutting, scraping, and hunting** by **early Homo sapiens** and Neanderthals.

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Some other **basic flake-tool making techniques** are - **Clactonian method** (involves use of anvil technique to produce large flake tools) and **Mousterian or disc core technology** (characterised by centripetal flaking around the entire core margin on one or both surfaces).

6. Consider the following statements with reference to Paleolithic tools: (CDS-2 2023)

1. Isampur was a well-known center of stone tool manufacture located in Gulbarga district of Karnataka and was situated along a small seasonal stream known as Kamta Halla.

2. A Paleolithic blade is a flake tool, the length of which is more than twice its width.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c) **Statement 1 is correct:** Isampur, discovered in 1983, is located in the Gulbarga (now Kalaburagi) district of Karnataka, near the seasonal stream Kamta Halla. Excavated by ASI and Deccan College, it highlights early hominin tool-making. Robert Bruce Foote was a British geologist and archaeologist who discovered the first

Statement 2 is correct: Paleolithic tool in India (the Pallavaram hand axe, 1863) at Chennai and contributed significantly to Indian prehistory. A Paleolithic blade is a flake tool whose length is at least twice its width, made using techniques like Levallois. These blades are typical of the Upper Paleolithic (40,000–10,000 BCE) and reflect improved efficiency.

7. Which one of the following was not a way in which kings in ancient India attempted to claim a higher status?

(NDA & NA Exam (II), 2023)

(a) Identifying with a variety of deities

(b) Assuming pompous titles

(c) Imposing high taxes

(d) Conquests and annexation of territories

Ans: (c) **High taxes** were a **fiscal tool** to run the administration, army, and infrastructure, not to gain status. Excessive taxation often caused **public anger** and **rebellions**.

Options (a), (b) and (d) are incorrect:

Kings raised their **status** through:

- ❖ Divine association with gods like **Vishnu, Shiva** or **Indra**; performing **Ashvamedha** or building temples. Example: Guptas used titles like Paramabhagavata (supreme devotee of Vishnu) to claim **divine legitimacy**.
- ❖ Using grand titles like **Maharajadhiraja, Chakravartin, Parameshvara**, and **Ashvamedha** performer reflected **imperial ambition**. Used by rulers like Ashoka, Samudragupta.
- ❖ Military conquests and expansion, glorified in inscriptions and court literature, as in Samudragupta's **Prayaga Prashasti**.

8. Near which one of the following cities in India have large statues of Kushana rulers been discovered?

(NDA & NA Exam (I), 2023)

(a) Karnal	(b) Ropar
(c) Hisar	(d) Mathura

Ans: (d) The city of **Mathura** (Uttar Pradesh) became a major cultural, political & sculptural art center under the **Kushana dynasty** (1st–3rd centuries CE).

- ❖ A key discovery in Mathura is a **headless statue of Emperor Kanishka** dated to the **2nd century CE**.
- ❖ Statues of **Kanishka, Huvishka, and Vasudev** preserved in the Mathura Museum, show Central Asian attire (boots, long coats), with inscriptions and symbols of royal power.

9. Which one of the following statements about Rabatak inscription is not correct? (NDA & NA Exam (I), 2023)

(a) It throws an important light on Kushana genealogy.
(b) It refers to Kanishka as 'a king of kings and a son of God'.
(c) The 23-line inscription is written in Gandhari language.
(d) It mentions names of States which were part of Kanishka's empire.

Ans: (c) **The Rabatak Inscription**, discovered near **Rabatak Pass, Afghanistan (1993)**, belongs to Kanishka I's reign (c. 127–150 CE). It is a 23-line epigraph written in **Bactrian language** using Greek script, not Gandhari (a Prakrit dialect).

Options (a), (b) and (d) are incorrect:

- ❖ It provides crucial information on **Kushana genealogy**, listing **Kujula Kadphises, Vima Taktu, and Vima Kadphises** as Kanishka's predecessors.
- ❖ Refers to Kanishka as "**Maharaja Rajadhiraja Devaputra**" (Great King, King of Kings, Son of God), highlighting imperial titles and divine legitimacy.
- ❖ Lists several **regions under Kanishka's empire**: Kausambi, Saketa, Pataliputra, Ujjain, Champa, confirming his vast territorial rule.

10. Who among the following was the first to decipher the Ashokan inscriptions?

(Combined Geo-Scientist (P) Exam, 2023)

(a) William Jones	(b) John Marshall
(c) James Prinsep	(d) Alexander Cunningham

Ans: (c) James Prinsep (1799–1840), officer of the East India Company and Secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, was the **first to decipher the Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts** in 1837, unlocking the **Ashokan inscriptions** (268–232 BCE). He identified “**Piyadassi**” as Emperor Ashoka, revealing Mauryan-era governance and Buddhist values. His work, published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal (1836–1838), marked a turning point in **Indian epigraphy and historical reconstruction**.

Options (a), (b) and (d) are *incorrect*:

- ❖ **William Jones (1746–1794):** Founded the Asiatic Society (1784); translated Sanskrit texts; did not work on inscriptions or Brahmi script.
- ❖ **John Marshall (1876–1958):** Director General of Archaeological Survey of India ASI (1902–1928); led the excavation at Harappa, Mohenjo-daro; not linked to Brahmi decipherment.
- ❖ **Alexander Cunningham (1814–1893):** “Father of Indian Archaeology”; founded Archaeological Survey of India ASI (1861); relied on Prinsep’s work; published The Stupa of Bharhut (1879), Ancient Geography of India (1871). He worked under James Prinsep in deciphering Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts.

11. Which Chinese traveller in ancient India wrote the diary called ‘Records of the Travels to Middle India’?

(NDA & NA Exam (I), 2022)

(a) Wang Xuance	(b) Xuanzang
(c) Yijing	(d) Li Yibiao

Ans: (b) Xuanzang (Hsüan-tsang), a **Chinese Buddhist monk**, visited **India (629–645 CE)** during **Harshavardhana’s reign** to collect authentic Buddhist scriptures and study Buddhism at **Nalanda**, the world’s first residential international university. He authored “**Da Tang Xiyu Ji**” (Great Tang Records on the Western Regions), also known as “**Records of the Travels to Middle India**”, detailing Indian religion, politics, society, geography, and Buddhist monastic life during Harshavardhana’s reign.

Options (a), (c) and (d) are *incorrect*:

- ❖ **Wang Xuance** was a 7th-century Tang envoy (643–657 CE) and military commander known for diplomatic/military missions in India but not this travelogue.
- ❖ **Yijing (I-tsing)** was a Chinese monk (635–713 CE) who visited India later (7th century) and studied at **Nalanda**, but his writings are different. He authored “**A Record of the Buddhist Practices Sent Home from the Southern Sea**”.
- ❖ **Li Yibiao** was a **Chinese official** who led a diplomatic mission to India. He came along Wang Xuance.

12. The location of the ancient city of Taxila (Takshshila), mentioned in ancient Indian texts, was identified by:

(CDS Exam (II), 2021)

(a) Alexander Cunningham	(b) R.D. Banerji
(c) John Marshall	(d) Daya Ram Sahni

Ans: (a) In mid-19th-century British India, ancient **Taxila’s** ruins were rediscovered by British archaeologist Alexander Cunningham and extensively excavated by **Sir John Marshall**. In 1980, UNESCO designated Taxila as a World Heritage Site.

13. James Prinsep is given credit for deciphering the script used in: (CGS(P)E, 2021(P-I))

(a) Ashokan Brahmi	(b) Kharoshthi
(c) Tamil Brahmi	(d) Harappan Seals

Ans: (a) James Prinsep, British scholar and East India Company officer, deciphered **Brahmi script** in 1837–1838 from **Ashokan inscriptions** (268–232 BCE), especially **Delhi-Topra pillar**.

14. Which one of the following inscriptions records the history of a guild of silk weavers? (CGS (P) E, 2021(P-I))

(a) Allahabad Pillar Inscription
(b) Junagadh Inscription of Rudradaman
(c) Mandasor Inscription
(d) Dhauli Rock Inscription

Ans: (c) The **Mandasor Inscription** (437 & 473 CE), under **Gupta ruler Kumaragupta** and **Aulikara feudatory Bandhuvarmman**, records a **guild of silk-weavers (pattavayas)** who migrated from south Gujarat (Lata) to Malwa. They established a Sun temple and engaged in silk production and trade. This is a rare inscriptional evidence of artisan guilds in ancient India. Texts like **Amarakosha** and **Brihat Samhita** also mention silk varieties like **Kshauma** and **Pattavastra** and detail various craftsmen.

15. The first coins to bear the names and images of rulers were issued by the: (CGS(P)E, 2021(P-I))

(a) Guptas	(b) Mauryas
(c) Indo-Greeks	(d) Satavahanas

Ans: (c) The **Indo-Greeks (180 BCE–10 CE)** were the first to issue coins with **rulers’ names and portraits**. These coins followed the **Hellenistic coinage tradition**, with **Greek and Kharoshthi** inscriptions. Notably, **Menander I** (also known as **Milinda**) issued coins with his portrait and name. The coins often featured a **Greek deity or symbols** on the reverse side, blending **Greek and Indian** cultural elements.

16. Consider the following statements about Stone Age in India: (CDS-1 2020)

1. Different periods are identified on the basis of the type and technology of stone tools.
2. There are no regional variations in the type and technology of tools in different periods.
3. Stone Age cultures of different periods evolved uniformly in a neat unilinear fashion all over the subcontinent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a) Statement 1 is correct: The Stone Age in India is divided into three main periods based on **tool types and manufacturing techniques, reflecting technological advancements rather than a uniform chronology**:

- ❖ **Paleolithic (Old Stone Age):** Characterized by core tools like hand axes and cleavers.
- ❖ **Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age):** Known for microliths and blade tools.
- ❖ **Neolithic (New Stone Age):** Marked by polished stone tools and ground axes.

Statements 2 and 3 are *incorrect*:

- ❖ Archaeological evidence reveals significant regional variations influenced by local resources, climate, and culture. For example, the **Soan Valley (NW India)** exhibits predominantly chopper tools; **Bhimbetka (Central India)** shows Levallois flakes and blades; **Belan Valley (Uttar Pradesh)** demonstrates a continuous sequence from Paleolithic to Neolithic; and **Acheulian** hand axes dominate in **southern India (Attirampakkam, Hunsgi)**.

- ❖ Neolithic transitions were uneven: **Kashmir adopted farming by 3000 BCE, Mehrgarh (NW India) shows early Neolithic around 7000 BC**, while parts of **South India remained Mesolithic until around 1000 BCE**.

2. INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

17. Match List-I and List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists: (CAPF 2023)

List-I (Harappan Site)		List-II (Location)	
A.	Nageshwar	1.	Uttar Pradesh
B.	Alamgirpur	2.	Rajasthan
C.	Kalibangan	3.	Saurashtra
D.	Rakhigarhi	4.	Haryana

Code:

(a) A-3; B-1; C-2; D-4 (b) A-4; B-2; C-1; D-3
 (c) A-4; B-1; C-2; D-3 (d) A-3; B-2; C-1; D-4

Ans: (a) A-3; B-1; C-2; D-4

- ❖ **Nageshwar (A-3)**, a coastal Harappan site in **Saurashtra (Gujarat)**, was a specialized **shell-working centre** for bangles, ladles, and inlays from conch shells, thriving due to easy access to raw materials, highlighting craft specialization and regional trade networks.
- ❖ **Alamgirpur (B-1)**, located in **Meerut district, Uttar Pradesh**, on the **Hindon River**, is the **easternmost Harappan site**, with limited urban evidence but important finds like Harappan pottery, copper, and ceramic beads, marking the eastern limit of the Indus Valley Civilization (2600–1900 BCE).
- ❖ **Kalibangan (C-2)**, in **Hanumangarh, Rajasthan**, on the **Ghaggar River**, is noted for **ploughed fields** (oldest evidence globally), fire altars, Harappan seals, and Pre-Harappan + Harappan remains, reflecting agriculture and ritual life.
- ❖ **Rakhigarhi (D-4)**, in **Hisar, Haryana**, is among the **largest Harappan sites**, with planned city layout, streets, drainage, and ongoing excavations revealing diverse craft production.

18. Consider the following statements:

(NDA & NA Exam (II), 2023)

1. Terracotta models of the plough have been found at sites in Cholistan and at Banawali (Haryana).
2. There is evidence of a ploughed field at Kalibangan associated with the mature phase of the Harappan civilization.
3. The ploughed field at Kalibangan had two sets of furrows crossing at right angles to each other suggesting two different crops were grown together in it.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1,2 and 3 (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 1 and 3 only (d) None of the above

Ans: (a) The Harappan or Indus Civilization refers to the urban, literate culture of the **3rd and early 2nd millennium BCE**, during the **Chalcolithic Age** (Chalco - copper, lithic - stone). It was the most advanced Chalcolithic culture.

Statements (1), (2) and (3) are correct:

- ❖ **Terracotta plough models** found at **Cholistan** (Pakistan) and **Banawali** (Haryana) show **awareness of technological advancements & agricultural tools**.
- ❖ **Kalibangan** (Rajasthan) is the only Harappan site with the earliest known archaeological evidence of a ploughed field

(fossilized furrows, indicating the **importance of agriculture** in the Harappan economy).

- ❖ The pattern of two sets of furrows crossing at right-angles (grid-like) suggest a multi-cropping/intercropping system, likely growing **wheat and barley or pulses and cereals** together.

19. Which one of the following Harappan centres specialized in making shell objects?

(Combined Geo-Scientist (P) Exam, 2023)

(a) Balakot (b) Kalibangan
 (c) Mohenjo-daro (d) Banawali

Ans: (a) Nageshwar and Balakot are IVC sites near the coast. These were specialised centres for making **shell objects** – including bangles, ladles and inlay – which were taken to other settlements. Similarly, it is likely that finished products (such as **beads**) from **Chanhudaro and Lothal** were taken to the large urban centres such as Mohenjodaro and Harappa.

Options (b), (c) and (d) are incorrect:

- ❖ **Kalibangan**: Known for its ploughed fields and evidence of early agricultural practices.
- ❖ **Mohenjo-daro**: A major urban centre known for its **planned city layout, Great Bath**, and advanced drainage, but not particularly specialized in shell artifacts.
- ❖ **Banawali**: Terracotta models of the plough have been found at sites in Cholistan and at Banawali (Haryana).

20. In the citadel and lower-town areas of which one of the following Harappan cities, have several large cisterns and reservoirs been found?

(CDS Exam (II) 2022)

(a) Banawali (b) Mohenjodaro
 (c) Dholavira (d) Rakhigarhi

Ans: (c) Dholavira, located in present-day Gujarat (on **Khadir Island** in the Rann of Kutch), is notable for its **advanced water management system**, featuring **several large cisterns and reservoirs** (largest measured 73 metres in length) found in both the citadel and lower town. Dholavira had three divisions: Citadel, Middle Town, and Lower Town. It's the only Harappan city with such a clearly divided layout. Recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site (2021)**.

21. At which among the following Harappan sites are fire altars found?

(NDA & NA Exam (II), 2022)

(a) Kalibangan (b) Harappa
 (c) Mohenjo-daro (d) Rakhigarhi

Ans: (a) Fire altars found in the Harappan Civilization are structures used for ritualistic purposes, often associated with fire-based ceremonies. Fire altars in Harappan Civilization are mostly found at Kalibangan and Lothal.

22. Most of the mature Harappan sites in the region of Cholistan had been abandoned during?

(CAPF 2021)

(a) C. 2250 BCE (b) C. 2000 BCE
 (c) C. 1800 BCE (d) C. 1700 BCE

Ans: (c) There is evidence that by c. 1800 BCE most of the Mature Harappan sites in regions such as **Cholistan** had been abandoned. In the few Harappan sites that continued to be occupied after 1900 BCE there appears to have been a **transformation of material culture**, marked by the **disappearance of the distinctive artefacts** of the civilisation – weights, seals, special beads. Writing, long-distance trade, and craft specialisation also disappeared.

23. Which one of the following Harappan sites was a specialised centre for making shell objects? (NDA & NA Exam (I), 2021)

(a) Lothal (b) Balakot
(c) Amri (d) Kot Diji

Ans: (b) Nageshwar and Balakot, both settlements are near the coast. These were specialised centres for making shell objects – including bangles, ladles and inlay – which were taken to other settlements.

24. Which of the following is/are the most distinctive artefacts of the Harappan Civilisation? (CAPF 2020)

1. Steatite seal 2. Bricks of a standardised ratio
3. Gold bangles 4. Silver spittoon

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (b) The Harappan (Indus Valley) Civilization (2600 BCE to 1900 BCE) is known for its advanced urban planning, standardisation, and distinctive material culture.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct:

❖ **Steatite Seals:** These seals, made of **steatite**, feature **animal motifs** (like unicorn, humped bull) and **Indus script**, used for **trade** and **administration**. They are the most iconic artefacts of the civilization.
❖ **Standardized Bricks:** Harappans used uniform **bricks** with a **4 : 2 : 1 ratio** (length : breadth : height), reflecting advanced urban planning and coordination across the vast civilization, seen in sites like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa.

Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect: **Gold bangles**, although found, are not unique to Harappans. Similarly, there is no significant evidence of **silver spittoons** being a characteristic artefact of the civilization.

25. Which one of the following statements about the Harappan script is not correct? (CAPF 2020)

(a) It has about four hundred signs
(b) It was written from right to left
(c) It has been found on bone rods and jewellery
(d) It refers to the people of Meluhha

Ans: (d) The Harappan script contains approximately 400–450 distinct signs, found on seals, pottery, bone rods, jewellery, and copper tools, indicating its widespread use.

❖ It is usually written **right to left**, with some instances showing **boustrophedon** (alternating directions).
❖ These features are confirmed by archaeological evidence from major sites like **Mohenjo-daro**, **Harappa**, **Kalibangan**, and **Dholavira**. However, the script remains **undeciphered**, and no confirmed meaning or phonetic value has been assigned to its symbols.

The term “**Meluhha**” appears in **Mesopotamian texts** (circa 2400–2000 BCE), likely referring to the **Indus Valley region**, but there is **no evidence** in the Harappan script itself that it refers to “Meluhha”.

26. From which one of the following factory sites were limestone and chert blades mass produced and sent to various Harappan settlements in Sindh? (CDS-1 2020)

(a) Sukkur and Rohri Hills (b) Khetri in Rajasthan
(c) Chagai Hills (d) Hills of Baluchistan

Ans: (a) The **Sukkur and Rohri Hills** (stone tool production hub), located in present-day Sindh, Pakistan, were important **factory sites** during the **Harappan Civilization (2600–1900 BCE)**. These hills were abundant in raw materials, especially chert and limestone. Here, parallel-sided chert blades and limestone tools were mass-produced and distributed to major Harappan urban centers like Mohenjodaro and Harappa.

Options (b), (c) and (d) are incorrect:

❖ **Khetri (Rajasthan):** Known for copper mining, not chert/limestone. Supplied copper tools and artifacts to Indus cities like Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa. Part of Chalcolithic trade networks.
❖ **Chagai Hills (Balochistan):** Provided tin and copper sustaining the metalworking traditions of the Indus Valley Civilization, not used for **chert blade production**.
❖ **Hills of Baluchistan:** Key for early metallurgy (e.g., Mehrgarh, copper smelting), but not linked to stone tool mass production.

3. HISTORY OF THE VEDIC PERIOD

27. Which one of the following statements about Rig Vedic goddesses is correct? (C.D.S. Exam (I), 2025)

(a) Ushas represents freedom from sickness.
(b) Sinivali bestows children.
(c) Aditi is the goddess of dawn.
(d) Raka is the goddess of speech.

Ans: (b) The Rig Veda, the oldest of the four **Vedas**, composed around **1500–1000 BCE**, is a rich tapestry of hymns dedicated to various deities of nature, cosmic order, and human concerns. While male deities like **Indra**, **Agni**, and **Varuna** dominate the **Vedic pantheon**, several goddesses are also revered, symbolizing vital aspects of existence such as dawn, speech, fertility, and the cosmic order.

Option (b) is correct: **Sinivali** is a Vedic goddess associated with fertility and childbirth. Mentioned in the Rig Veda, she is described as broad-hipped and fair-armed, and is specifically invoked to bestow fertility and ensure the successful placement of a fetus in the womb.

Options (a), (c) and (d) are incorrect:

❖ **Ushas:** Goddess of **dawn**, representing the daily renewal of life.
❖ **Aditi:** A mother goddess, often called the mother of the Adityas (solar deities). Symbolizes infinity, boundlessness, and freedom.
❖ **Raka:** A lunar goddess, associated with the full moon and fertility.

28. Who among the following is the most frequently invoked God in the Rig Veda? (Combined Geo-Scientist (P) Exam, 2025)

(a) Indra (b) Agni
(c) Surya (d) Varuna

Ans: (a) **Indra** is the most frequently invoked deity in the **Rig Veda**, with about **250 hymns** dedicated to him, approximately a quarter of the Rig Vedic text. He is revered as the **god of thunder, rain, and war**.

The most famous myth is his **defeat of the serpent demon Vritra**, who had withheld the waters. This act made Indra the god responsible for rain and prosperity. He is also called **Purandara** (breaker of forts), **Vritrahan** (slayer of Vritra), and **Maghavan** (the bounteous). His importance reflects the martial and agricultural

concerns of early Vedic society, highlighting his role as a divine protector.

Options (b), (c) and (d) are incorrect:

- ❖ **Agni**, the **god of fire**, is the second most invoked deity with around **200 hymns**. He acts as the mediator in **sacrificial rites**.
- ❖ **Surya** (Sun god) and **Varuna** (god of cosmic order) are important but invoked far less frequently

29. The terms used for cereals in the Rig Veda are:

(CDS Exam (II), 2024)

(a) Godhuma and Vrihi	(b) Yava and Dhanya
(c) Tila and Khala	(d) Priyangu and Shyamaka

Ans: (b)

- ❖ In the **Rig Veda**, the earliest known Vedic text, **agriculture** and **cereal crops** are occasionally mentioned.
- ❖ **Yava** refers to **barley**, a key cereal mentioned in the **Rig Veda** as a staple food and in rituals.
- ❖ **Dhanya** is a **generic term for grains or cereals**, including barley, rice, or wheat, and is also used in the **Rig Veda** for offerings.
- ❖ These terms reflect the **agro-pastoral lifestyle** of the Vedic people, where **barley held more importance** than later staples like rice.

Options (a), (c) and (d) are incorrect:

- ❖ **Godhuma and Vrihi** – These terms refer to **wheat** and **rice**, respectively, but they appear more frequently in **later Vedic literature** (e.g., **Atharvaveda** or **Yajurveda**), not prominently in the **Rig Veda**.
- ❖ **Tila and Khala** – **Tila** refers to **sesame** from which the first widely used **vegetable food-oil** was derived increasingly, came to be used in **rituals** and **Khala** refers to **threshing floor**, not cereals per se.
- ❖ **Priyangu and Shyamaka** – **Priyangu** (likely foxtail millet) and **shyamaka** (barnyard millet) are mentioned in later Vedic texts and not prominently in the **Rig Veda**.

30. Consider the following statements about the practice of Vedic sacrifices: (CAPF 2023)

1. The shrauta (Vedic sacrifices) involved the use of three fires- the garhapatya (householder's fire), ahavaniya (offerorial fire) and dakshin agni (southern fire).
2. These fires were supposed to be placed in pits of different shapes, i.e., the garhapatya to be square, ahavaniya to be round and that of the dakshinagni, rectangle-shaped.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a) The word **Yajna** comes from the root '**yaj**', meaning **to worship, to sacrifice, or to bestow**. It refers to **offering oblations to deities**, and is defined as the **tyaga of dravya unto a devata**. **Homa** is the act of pouring **ājya** (clarified butter) into a duly consecrated **grhya** (domestic) fire.

Statement 1 is correct: Shrauta (Vedic) sacrifices used three sacred fires:

- ❖ **Garhapatya** – householder's fire, always burning.
- ❖ **Ahavaniya** – offerorial fire for divine oblations.
- ❖ **Dakshinagni** – southern fire, linked to ancestors. These were foundational to **complex Vedic rituals**. These fires are well-attested in **Vedic literature** like the **Shatapatha Brahmana** and **Yajurveda**. They formed the core of **Agnihotra, Soma Yajna**, and **Agnichayana** rituals (circa 1500–500 BCE).

Statement 2 is incorrect: The shapes of the **fire altars** were:

- ❖ **Garhapatya: circular** (not square)
- ❖ **Ahavaniya: square** (not round)
- ❖ **Dakshinagni: semicircular** (not rectangular). These forms were **symbolic and fixed** in **Vedic ritual design**. These symbolic shapes were fixed by **Shulbasutras** and **ritual manuals**, not arbitrary.

31. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer using the code given below the lists: (CAPF 2022)

List I (Vedic name of River)		List-II (Modern name)	
A.	Drishadvati	1.	Chenab
B.	Askini	2.	Chautang
C.	Vitasta	3.	Ravi
D.	Purushni	4.	Jhelum

Code:

(a) A-2; B-4; C-1; D-3	(b) A-2; B-1; C-4; D-3
(c) A-3; B-1; C-4; D-2	(d) A-3; B-4; C-1; D-2

Ans: (b) A-2; B-1; C-4; D-3

Vedic River	Modern Name	Key Facts
Drishadvati	Chautang	Seasonal river in Haryana ; formed part of the Sarasvati system ; marked eastern boundary of sacred Brahmavarta ; mentioned in early Vedic geography .
Askini	Chenab	One of the five rivers of Punjab ; sacred in Rigvedic hymns ; part of the Sapta Sindhu region; flowed west of the Sarasvati.
Vitasta	Jhelum	Originates at Verinag (Kashmir) ; flows through Vale of Kashmir ; name preserved in local traditions ; important in Vedic cosmology .
Purushni	Ravi	Site of Battle of Ten Kings ; important Indus tributary ; flowed between Sutlej and Chenab ; mentioned in ancient tribal conflicts .

32. At the banks of which of the following rivers was the Battle of Ten Kings fought in the Early Vedic Period?

(CDS Exam (II) 2022)

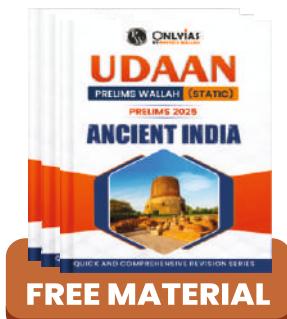
(a) Sarasvati	(b) Drishadvati
(c) Parushni	(d) Shutudri

Ans: (c) The **Battle of Ten Kings (Dasarajna Yuddha)**, described in Rigveda Mandala 7, Hymn 18 (circa 1500–1000 BCE), was fought on the banks of the **Parushni River** (modern **Ravi**). King **Sudas** of the **Bharata** tribe, guided by his priest **Vashistha**, defeated a confederacy of ten tribes, including **Puru, Yadu, Turvasa, Anu, Druhyu, Alina, Bhalanas, Paktha, Siva, and Visanin**.

33. Which one of the following is not listed as one of the sixteen mahajanapadas in the pre-Mauryan period? (CAPF 2020)

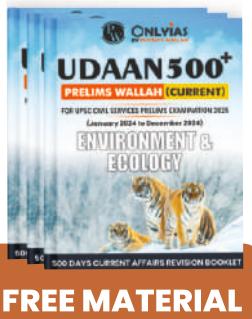
(a) Kuru	(b) Vatsa
(c) Gandhara	(d) Kalinga

OUR CONTENT



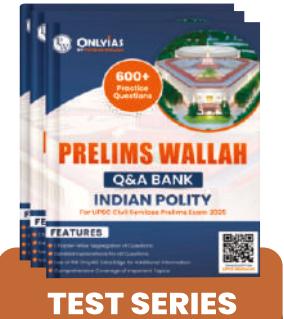
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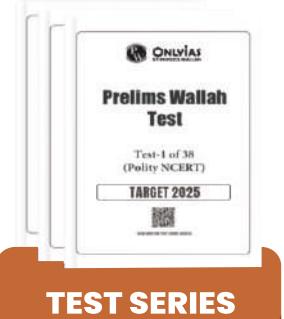
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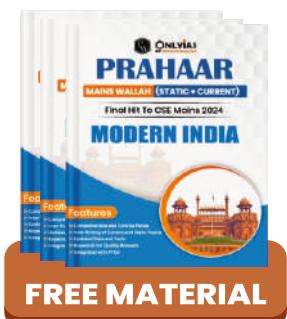
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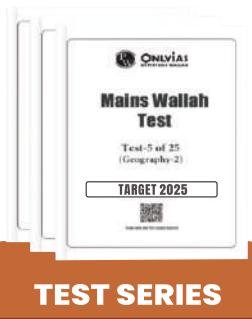
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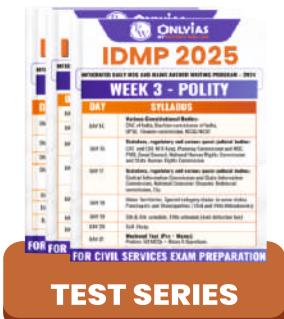
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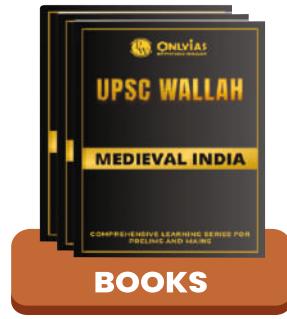
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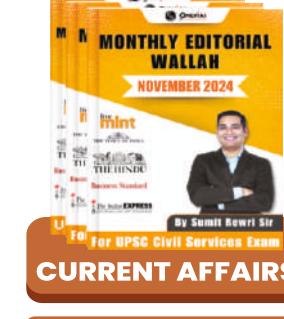
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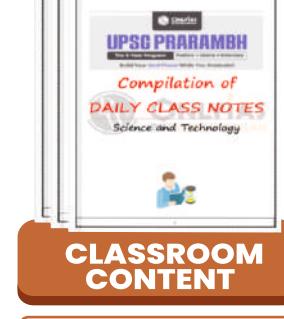
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