

1. Match List-I with List-II and select the correct answer (using codes given below the lists) [1995]

List-I (Eras)	List-II (Reckoned from)
A. Vikrama era	1. 3102 B.C.
B. Saka era	2. 320 A.D.
C. Gupta era	3. 78 A.D.
D. Kali era	4. 58 B.C.
	5. 248 A.D.

Codes:

- (a) A-2 B-4 C-5 D-1 (b) A-1 B-3 C-2 D-4
(c) A-4 B-5 C-2 D-3 (d) A-4 B-3 C-2 D-1
2. In Sanskrit plays written during the Gupta period women and Sudras speak: [1995]
(a) Sanskrit (b) Prakrit (c) Pali (d) Sauraseni
3. The term 'Yavanapriya' mentioned in ancient Sanskrit texts denoted: [1995]
(a) A fine variety of Indian Muslim
(b) Ivory
(c) Dansels sent to the Greek court for dance performance
(d) Pepper
4. The concept of Anuvrata was advocated by: [1995]
(a) Mahayana Buddhism (b) Hinayana Buddhism
(c) Jainism (d) The Lokayata school
5. According to Mimamsa system of philosophy, liberation is possible by means by: [1995]
(a) Jnana (b) Bhakti (c) Yoga (d) Karma
6. Bronze icons of Nataraja cast during the Chola period invariably show the deity with: [1995]
(a) Eight hands (b) Six hands
(c) Four hands (d) Two hands
7. According to ancient Indian cosmogonic ideas the sequential order of the cycle of four acons (yugas) is: [1996]
(a) Dvapara, Krita, Treta and Kali
(b) Krita, Dvapara, Treta and Kali
(c) Krita, Treta, Dvapara and Kali
(d) Treta, Dvapara, Kali and Krita
8. Which one of the following temples figured in the news regarding the institution of the Devadasi? [1996]
(a) Jagannath temple, Puri
(b) Pashupatinath temple, Kathmandu
(c) Kandariya Mahadev temple, Khajuraho
(d) Chausath Yogini temple, Bhedaghat
9. Which one of the following is not a part of early Jains literature? [1996]
(a) Therigatha (b) Acarangasutra
(c) Suttrakritanga (d) Brihatkalpasutra
10. Which of the following were common to both Buddhism and Jainism? [1996]
1. Avoidance of extremities of penance and enjoyment
2. Indifference to the authority of the Vedas
3. Denial of efficacy of rituals
4. Non-injury to animal life

Select the answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (b) 2, 3 and 4

(c) 1, 3, and 4

(d) 1 and 2

11. Which one of the following sculptures was invariably used green schist as the medium? [1996]
(a) Maurya sculptures (b) Mathura sculptures
(c) Bharhut sculptures (d) Gandhara sculptures
12. Which one of the following texts of ancient India allows divorce to a wife deserted by her husband? [1996]
(a) Kamasutra (b) Manava Dharma Shastra
(c) Sukra Nitisara (d) Arthashastra
13. Which one of the following scripts of ancient India was written from right to left? [1997]
(a) Brahmi (b) Nand nagari
(c) Sharada (d) Kharosthi
14. In the Mahayana Buddhism, the Bodhisatva Avalokitesvara was also known as: [1997]
(a) Vajrapani (b) Manjusri
(c) Padmapani (d) Maitreya
15. Match List-I with List- II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists: [1997]
- | List-I (Author) | List-II (Text) |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Varahamihira | 1. Prabandha Chintamani |
| B. Vishakhadatta | 2. Mrichchha-Katikam |
| C. Sudraka | 3. Brihat-Samhita |
| D. Bilhana | 4. Devi-Chandraguptam |
| | 5. Vikramankadeva-Charita |
- Codes:
(a) A-3, B-4, C-5, D-2 (b) A-3, B-4, C-2, D-5
(c) A-5, B-3, C-4, D-1 (d) A-1, B-3, C-5, D-2
16. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched? [1998]
1. Mrichchakatikam - Shudraka
2. Buddhacharita - Vasuvandhu
3. Mudrarakshasha - Vishakhadatta
4. Harshacharita - Banabhatta
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
(a) 1,2,3 and 4 (b) 1,3, and 4
(c) 1 and 4 (d) 2 and 3
17. Which one of the following statements is not correct? [1999]
(a) Neel Darpan, was a play based on the exploitation of the indigo farmers.
(b) The author of the play "Ghashiram Kotwal" is Vijay Tendulkar.
(c) The play "Navanna" by Navin Chandra Das was based on the famine of Bengal.
(d) Urdu theatre used to depend heavily on Parsi theatre.
18. The Paintings of Abanindranath Tagore are classified as: [1999]
(a) Impressionistic (b) Realistic
(c) Revivalistic (d) Socialistic
19. The first feature film (talkie) to be produced in India was: [1999]
(a) Hatimtai (b) Alam Ara
(c) Pundalik (d) Raja Harishchandra

20. Which one of the following pairs of folk Dance forms and states is not correctly [1999]

- (a) Korku - Maharashtra (b) Jhummar - Haryana
(c) Thali - Himachal Pradesh (d) Mukna - Manipur

21. Match List - I with List - II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists. [1999]

List - I	List - II
A. The first Indian war of Independence	1. Rabindranath Tagore
B. Anand Math	2. Sri Aurobindo Ghosh
C. Life Divine	3. Bankim Chandra Chatterji
D. Sadhana	4. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

Codes

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

22. Match List - I with List - II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists. [1999]

List - I	List - II
A. Pandit Vishnu Digamber	1. Introduced the scheme of Raga Classification in Indian music.
B. Venkatamali	2. Proponent of the Carnatic music
C. Shyama Shastri	3. Proponent of the Khayal form of Hindustani music
D. Amir Khusro	4. Wrote the music for the song Vande Mataram

Codes

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

23. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched? [2000]

- (a) Bakti Itihas - Badal Sarkar
(b) Sita Swayamvar - Vishnu Das Bhave
(c) Yayati - Girish Kaenad
(d) Giddha - Jabbar Patel

24. Consider the following statements regarding the Chakiarkoothu form of dance: [2000]

- It is performed by chakiar caste.
- It cannot be traditionally witnessed by the higher caste Hindus.
- Mizhavu is the accompanying instrument.
- Its theatre form is called Koothambalam.

Which of these statements are correct?

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

25. Assertion (A) The Aham and Puram poems of the Padinen Kilukanakku group formed a continuation of the Sangam composition.

Reason (R) They were included under the Post Sangam works as against the Sangam works proper. [2000]

Codes

- (a) Both (A) and (R) are individually true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
(b) Both (A) and (R) are individually true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
(c) (A) is true, but (R) is false
(d) (A) is false, but (R) is true

26. The Raga which is sung early in the morning is: [2000]

- (a) Todi (b) Darbari
(c) Bhopali (d) Bhimpalasi

27. Match List - I with List - II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists. [2000]

List - I	List - II
A. Balamurali Krishna	1. Hindustani vocal
B. Mita Pandit	2. Ghatam
C. Kanyakumari	3. Sitar
D. Nikhil Bannerjee	4. Violin
	5. Carnatic vocal

Codes

- (a) A-3, B-1, C-5, D-2 (b) A-4, B-3, C-1, D-5
(c) A-5, B-1, C-4, D-3 (d) A-5, B-4, C-1, D-3

28. In which one of the following cities is the Lingaraja Temple located? [2001]

- (a) Bhubaneswar (b) Bijapur
(c) Kolkata (d) Shravanabelagola

29. Match List - I with List - II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists. [2001]

List - I (Dancer)	List - II (Dance)
A. Kalamandalam Kshemavaty	1. Kathakali
B. Kottakkal Sivaraman	2. Manipuri
C. Lakshmi Viswanathan	3. Mohiniattam
D. N Madhabi Devi	4. Bharatanatyam

Codes

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

30. Hoysala monuments are found in: [2001]

- (a) Hampi and Hosper (b) Halebid and Belur
(c) Mysore and Bangalore (d) Sringeri and Dharwar

31. Who among the following Englishmen, first translated Bhagavad Gita into English? [2001]

- (a) William Jones (b) Charles Wilkins
(c) Alexander Cunningham (d) John Marshall

32. Which one of the following pair is correctly matched?

- (a) Harappan Civilisation - Painted Grey Ware [2001]
(b) The Kushans - Gandhara School of Art
(c) The Mughals - Ajanta Painting
(d) The Marathas - Pahari School of Painting

33. Consider the following statements: [2001]

- Arya Samaj was founded in 1835.
- Lala Lajpat Rai opposed the appeal of Arya samaj of the authority of Vedas in support of its social reform programme.
- Under Keshab Chandra Sen, the Brahmo Samaj campaigned for women's education.
- Vinoba Bhave founded the Sarvodya Samaj to work among refugees.

Which of these statements are correct?

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

34. Which one of the following animals was not represented out seals arid Terracotta Art of Harappan Culture? [2001]

- (a) Cow (b) Elephant (c) Rhinoceros (d) Tiger

35. Which one of the following statements is not correct? [2002]

- (a) The statue of Gomateshwara at Sravanabelagola represents the last Tirthankara of Jains.
(b) India's largest Buddhist monastery is in Arunachal Pradesh.

3. Wari – Warkari	Santhals
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Which of the pairs given is / are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) None of these

111. With reference to the British colonial rule in India, consider the following statements: [2019]

1. Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of "Indentured Labour".
2. In Lord Chelmsford's War conference, Mahatma Gandhi did not support the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War.
3. Consequent upon the breaking of Salt Law by Indian People, the Indian National Congress was declared illegal by the colonial rulers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

112. With reference to Chausath Yogini Temple situated near Morena, consider the following statements: [2021]

1. It is a circular temple built during the reign of Kachchhapaghata Dynasty.
2. It is the only circular temple built in India.
3. It was meant to promote the Vaishnava cult in the region.
4. Its design has given rise to a popular belief that it was the inspiration behind the Indian Parliament building.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

113. Which one of the following statements is correct? [2021]

- (a) Ajanta Caves lie in the gorge of Waghora river.
(b) Sanchi Stupa lies in the gorge of Chambal river.
(c) Pandu-lena Cave Shrines lie in the gorge of Narmada river.
(d) Amaravati Stupa lies in the gorge of Godavari river.

114. With reference to India, the terms 'Halbi, Ho and Kui' pertain to [2021]

- (a) dance forms of Northwest India
(b) Musical instruments
(c) Pre-historic cave paintings
(d) Tribal languages

115. With reference to Indian history, consider the following texts: [2022]

1. Nettipakarana
2. Parishishtaparvan
3. Avadanashataka
4. Trishashtilakshana Mahapurana

Which of the above are Jaina texts?

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

116. With reference to Indian history, consider the following pairs: Historical person Known as [2022]

1. Aryadeva – Jaina scholar
2. Dignaga – Buddhist scholar
3. Nathamuni – Vaishnava scholar

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) None of the pairs (b) Only one pair
(c) Only two pairs (d) All three pairs

117. "Yogavasistha" was translated into Persian by Nizamuddin Panipati during the reign of: [2022]

- (a) Akbar (b) Humayun
(c) Shahjahan (d) Aurangzeb

118. With reference to ancient India, consider the following statements: [2023]

1. The concept of Stupa is Buddhist in origin.
2. Stupa was generally a repository of relics.
3. Stupa was a votive and commemorative structure in Buddhist tradition.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All three (d) None

119. Which one of the following explains the practice of Vattakirutal as mentioned in Sangam poems? [2023]

- (a) Kings employing women (bodyguards)
(b) Learned persons assembling in royal courts to discuss religious and philosophical matters
(c) Young girls keeping watch over agricultural fields and driving away birds and animals
(d) A king defeated in a battle committing ritual suicide by starving himself to death

120. With reference to Ancient Indian History, consider the following pairs: [2023]

	Literacy works	Author
1	Devichandraguptam	Bilhana
2	Hammira Mahakavya	Nyaya Chandra Suri
3	Milinda Panha	Nagarjuna
4	Nitivakyamrita	Somadeva Suri

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched

- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Only 3 (d) All four

121. "Souls are not only the property of animal and plant life, but also of rocks, running water and many other natural objects not looked on as living by other religious sects." The above statement reflects one of the core beliefs of which one of ancient India? [2023]

- (a) Buddisum (b) Jainism
(c) Shaivism (d) Vaihnnavism

122. Consider the following pairs: [2023]

Site	Well known for
1. Besnagar	Shaivite cave shrine
2. Bhaja	Buddhist cave shrine
3. Sittanavasal	Jain cave shrine

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) All three (d) None

123. Which one of the following is a work attributed to playwright Bhasa? [2024]

- (a) Kavyalankara (b) Natyashastra
(c) Madhyama-vyayoga (d) Mahabhashya

124. Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List released by UNESCO: [2024]

1. Shantiniketan
2. Rani-ki-Vav
3. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas
4. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya

How many of above properties were included in 2023?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) Only three (d) All four

125. Consider the following information: [2024]

	Archaeological Site	State
1	Chandraketurgh	Odisha
2	Inamgaon	Maharashtra
3	Mangadu	Kerala
4	Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3
(c) 3 and 4 (d) 1 and 4

126. Consider the following statements: [2024]

- There are no parables in Upanishads.
- Upanishads were composed earlier than the Puranas.

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

127. Which one of the following was the latest inclusion in the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO? [2024]

- (a) Chhau dance (b) Durga puja
(c) Garba dance (d) Kumbh mela

128. Who among the following rulers in ancient India had assumed the titles 'Mattavilasa', 'Gunabhara'? [2025]

- (a) Mahendravarman I (b) Simhavishnu
(c) Narasimhavarman I (d) Simhavarman

129. The first Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, a music training school, was set up in 1901 by Vishnu Digambar Paluskar in [2025]

- (a) Delhi (b) Gwalior
(c) Ujjain (d) Lahore

130. The famous female figurine known as 'Dancing Girl', found at Mohenjo-Daro, is made of [2025]

- (a) carnelian (b) clay
(c) bronze (d) gold

131. What does an empty seat represent in early Buddhist iconography? [2026]

- (a) The meditation of the Buddha
(b) The Buddha's First Sermon
(c) The Buddha's Mahaparinibbana
(d) The Buddha's Mahabhinishkramana

132. Which of the following statements on the Amaravati Stupa and its relief sculpture is/are correct? [2026]

- It was located in the lower Krishna valley.
- In India, it was next only to the Sanchi Stupa in size.
- The Amaravati school of sculpture made a lasting impact on the later South Indian sculpture, and its products were carried to Sri Lanka and South-east Asia.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

133. Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur, the famous classical singer from Karnataka, represented the: [2026]

- (a) Agra Gharana (b) Gwalior Gharana
(c) Patiala Gharana (d) Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana

134. Which one of the following Carnatic music ragas is similar to Raga Bilawal in Hindustani music? [2026]

- (a) Nat Bhairavi (b) Kamavardhini
(c) Hanumatodi (d) Dheera Shankarabharanam

135. Which of the following temples has/have a Nagara-style shikhara? [2026]

- Malegitti Shivalaya, Badami
- Huchimalligudi Temple, Aihole
- Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh
- Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

136. Among the four main forms of existence of life recognized in Jainism, which one of the following is not included? [2026]

- (a) Deva (gods)
(b) Yaksha (demi-gods)
(c) Manushya (humans)
(d) Tiryanca (animals and plants)

137. The Hallisallasya painting in the Bagh Caves represents: [2026]

- (a) A joyous folk dance
(b) Buddha in a meditative pose
(c) The depiction of Shiva and Parvati on Kailasha
(d) Samudramanthan (Churning of the Ocean)

Answer & Explanations

- (d) I. Vikrama era → 58 B.C. (D) Founded by King Vikramaditya of Ujjain after defeating the Shakas.
II. Saka era → 78 A.D. (C) Started by King Kanishka, Kushana ruler. Officially adopted as the National Calendar of India in 1957.
III. Gupta era → 320 A.D. (B) Began with the accession of Chandragupta I (Gupta dynasty).
IV. Kali era → 3102 B.C. (A) Mythical era, reckoned from the traditional date of the Mahabharata war and start of the Kali Yuga.
- (b) In classical Sanskrit dramas, especially those written during the Gupta period, there was a well-defined linguistic convention:

- Kings, Brahmins, and high-born male characters spoke Sanskrit.
- Women, Sudras, servants, and common people generally spoke Prakrit.

This convention can be seen in plays by famous Gupta-age dramatists such as Kalidasa and Visakhadatta.

For example, in the famous play Abhijnanasakuntalam, noble male characters speak Sanskrit, while female characters often converse in Prakrit.

UPSC Tip: A standard feature of ancient Indian Sanskrit drama was:

Sanskrit → elite male characters

Prakrit → women and commoners

Hence, (b) Prakrit is the correct answer.

3. (d) The term "**Yavanapriya**" literally means "**dear to the Yavanas (Greeks)**".
- **Yavana** was the term used in ancient Indian texts for the **Greeks** and, later, for other Western foreigners.
 - **Yavanapriya** referred to **black pepper**, which was highly prized and extensively exported from India to the Greek and Roman worlds.

Ancient trade between India and the Mediterranean region flourished, and Indian pepper was one of the most sought-after commodities.

Thus:

Term	Meaning
Yavana	Greeks/Western foreigners
Yavanapriya	Pepper ("beloved of the Greeks")

Hence, the correct answer is **(d) Pepper**.

4. (c) In **Jainism**, ethical conduct is based on vows (**vratas**).
- **Mahavratas (Great Vows)** are prescribed for Jain monks and nuns.
 - **Anuvratas (Lesser or Small Vows)** are prescribed for householders (lay followers), who cannot observe the strict discipline of monks.

The five **Anuvratas** are:

1. Non-violence (**Ahimsa**)
2. Truthfulness (**Satya**)
3. Non-stealing (**Asteya**)
4. Limited celibacy/chastity (**Brahmacharya**)
5. Non-possession (**Aparigraha**)

These are less rigorous versions of the **Mahavratas** observed by ascetics.

Therefore, the concept of **Anuvrata** was advocated by **Jainism**.

UPSC Tip:

- **Mahavrata** → Jain monks/nuns
- **Anuvrata** → Jain householders (lay followers)

Hence, **(c) Jainism** is the correct answer.

5. (d) The Mimamsa (particularly **Purva Mimamsa**) school of Indian philosophy, founded by Jaimini, emphasizes the performance of **Vedic rituals and duties (Karma)**. According to Mimamsa:

- The **Vedas are eternal and infallible**.
- The proper performance of **Vedic sacrifices and prescribed duties (Karma)** is the chief means to attain the highest good.
- Great importance is given to **ritual action** rather than to devotion (**Bhakti**) or yogic practices.

Thus, in the Mimamsa system, **liberation (moksha) is associated with the performance of prescribed Karma**.

Quick Revision of Major Schools:

- **Mimamsa** → **Karma**
- **Vedanta** → **Jnana** (especially Advaita)
- **Bhakti schools** → **Bhakti**
- **Yoga school** → **Yoga**

Hence, **(d) Karma** is the correct answer.

6. (c) The iconic bronze images of Nataraja produced during the Chola period invariably depict Lord Shiva with **four arms**. **Significance of the Four Hands:**
1. **Upper right hand** holds the **damaru (drum)**, symbolizing creation.
 2. **Upper left hand** holds **agni (fire)**, symbolizing destruction.
 3. **Lower right hand** is in **Abhaya Mudra**, signifying protection and fearlessness.
 4. **Lower left hand** points towards the raised foot, indicating liberation (moksha).



The Chola bronzes, especially the Nataraja images, are regarded as masterpieces of Indian metal art.

Hence, **(c) Four hands** is the correct answer.

7. (c) The correct sequence of the four yugas, according to ancient Indian cosmogonic ideas, is Krita Yuga (also known as Satya Yuga), followed by Treta Yuga, then Dvapara Yuga, and finally Kali Yuga. This order represents a gradual decline in righteousness and moral values, with Krita Yuga being the age of truth and virtue, and Kali Yuga being the age of darkness and strife.
8. (a) The Jagannath temple in Puri, Odisha, has been historically associated with the institution of Devadasis. The Devadasi system involved young girls being dedicated to the temple, where they performed rituals, sang, and danced in honor of the deity. Over time, this practice faced significant criticism and was eventually abolished due to its association with the exploitation of women. The Jagannath temple is one of the most prominent temples where this practice was notably present, leading to its mention in the news and discussions surrounding the Devadasi institution.
9. (a) Therigatha is not a part of early Jain literature. It belongs to the Buddhist canon and is one of the earliest collections of Buddhist poetry, found in the Khuddaka Nikaya of the Pali Tipitaka. The Therigatha is a compilation of verses composed by the early Buddhist nuns, known as Theris. These verses express the spiritual struggles, realizations, and achievements of the nuns, reflecting their journey towards enlightenment. The Therigatha is an essential text in Theravada Buddhism, providing insights into the lives and teachings of the first generation of women who followed the Buddha.
- **Option (b) is Incorrect:** Acarangasutra is one of the earliest and most important texts in Jain literature. It is part of the Jain Agamas (scriptures) and is foundational to the teachings of Jainism. The Acarangasutra provides detailed instructions on the conduct and rules of ascetic life for Jain monks and nuns. It discusses the importance of non-violence (ahimsa), truthfulness, and other ethical principles that are central to Jainism.
 - **Option (c) is Incorrect:** Suttrakritanga is another crucial text in early Jain literature. It is one of the twelve Angas, which are the primary scriptures of Jainism. The Suttrakritanga contains discussions on various doctrines, philosophical debates, and refutations of other religious beliefs, emphasizing the uniqueness of Jain principles such as non-violence and non-possessiveness.
 - **Option (d) is Incorrect:** Brihatkalpasutra is also part of Jain literature, specifically dealing with the rules and regulations governing the monastic life of Jain monks and nuns. It is a text that provides detailed guidelines on the conduct, discipline, and rituals that are to be followed by members of the Jain monastic community. The Brihatkalpasutra is essential for understanding the organizational and ethical framework within which Jain monasticism operates.
10. (b) **Avoidance of extremities of penance and enjoyment:**

Let's briefly review why other options are incorrect:

- (a): Kavyalankara is a work on Sanskrit poetics which is attributed to Bhamaha.
- (b): Natyashastra is an Indian treatise on performing arts which is attributed to the sage Bharata.
- (d): Mahabhashya is a commentary on Panini's grammar which is attributed to Patanjali.

Therefore, the correct answer is (c).

124. (b) **Shantiniketan**: It was included in the **UNESCO World Heritage List in 2023**. Founded by Rabindranath Tagore, Shantiniketan is an educational and cultural center that played a significant role in India's art, culture and education.

Rani-ki-Vav: The **Rani-ki-Vav** (Queen's Stepwell) in Gujarat was added to the **World Heritage List in 2014**. This beautifully constructed stepwell showcases the intricate water management system and impressive architecture of the Solanki dynasty. Since it was listed before 2023, it is not part of the recent additions.

Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas: These are the group of Hoysala dynasty temples located in Karnataka which were added to the **UNESCO World Heritage List in 2023**. The intricate stone carvings and architectural brilliance of these temples are considered masterpieces of Indian temple architecture.

Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya: It was listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002**. It is one of the most important pilgrimage sites for Buddhists globally.

Therefore, the correct answer is (b).

125. (b) **Row 1 is Incorrect**: Chandraketugarh is located in West Bengal, not Odisha. It was a prominent ancient city and trading port during the Mauryan period.

Row 2 is correct: Inamgaon is a well-known Chalcolithic site in Maharashtra which is one of the most studied sites from the Jorwe culture.

Row 3 is Incorrect: Mangadu is known for its megalithic monuments (Large stone structures associated with prehistoric burial sites) which is located in Kerala

Row 4 is Incorrect: Salihundam is indeed located in Andhra Pradesh but it is known for its **Buddhist stupas and archaeological remains** from the 2nd century BCE to the 12th century CE.

Therefore, the correct answer is (b).

126. (b) **Statement 1 is Incorrect**: The Upanishads has several parables, allegories, and stories to convey complex philosophical ideas and spiritual truths. These parables serve as pedagogical tools to simplify and illustrate the teachings about the nature of the self (Atman), the ultimate reality (Brahman), and the relationship between the two. For example, the Chandogya Upanishad contains the story of Svetaketu to explain the concept of Tat Tvam Asi ("Thou art That"). Similarly, the Katha Upanishad uses the parable of Nachiketa to explore the nature of the soul and the afterlife.

Statement 2 is Correct: The Upanishads were composed during the late Vedic period, approximately between 800-500 BCE. They focus on metaphysical discussions, exploring the nature of reality, the self and the universe. The Puranas, on the other hand, were composed much later, starting from around 300 CE and continuing for several centuries. The Puranas are encyclopedic in nature, containing myths, legends, genealogies of gods, heroes, and kings, and explanations of religious practices and cosmology.

Therefore, the correct answer is (b).

127. (b) **Durga Puja** was added to the **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List** in 2021. This festival celebrates the victory of the goddess Durga over the demon

Mahishasura. It is not just a religious event but a **significant cultural, artistic and social phenomenon** that embodies the living cultural traditions of Bengal and other regions.

Let's briefly review why other options are incorrect:

Chhau Dance: Chhau dance is a traditional dance form that originates from eastern India, particularly from the states of **West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha**. It was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010. The theme of the dance is often derived from **Mahabharata, Ramayana and local folklores**.

Garba Dance: Garba is a traditional dance of Gujarat which is performed during the **Navratri festival** and involves rhythmic circular movements performed by both men and women. It has not yet been inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Kumbh Mela: Kumbh Mela was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2017. The Kumbh Mela is held every four years in rotation between four pilgrimage sites on the banks of the rivers **Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari and the Kshipra**. It is the **largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth** and is known for its spiritual and cultural significance.

Thus, the correct answer is (b).

128. (a) **Mahendravarman I**, the famous ruler of the Pallava dynasty (c. 600–630 CE), assumed the titles "**Mattavilasa**" and "**Gunabhara**".

Explanation:

- **Mattavilasa** ("one fond of merriment") is also the title of the Sanskrit farce *Mattavilasa Prahasana*, authored by Mahendravarman I.
- **Gunabhara** means "full of virtues" or "repository of virtues."

Mahendravarman I was not only a powerful ruler but also a distinguished patron of art, architecture, and literature. He initiated the tradition of **rock-cut temple architecture** in the Pallava kingdom.

Why the other options are incorrect:

- **Simhavishnu** – Father of Mahendravarman I; known for expanding Pallava power.
- **Narasimhavarman I** – Son of Mahendravarman I, famous for defeating the Chalukya ruler Pulakesin II and earning the title **Vatapikonda**.
- **Simhavarman** – An earlier Pallava ruler, not associated with these titles.

Hence, (a) **Mahendravarman I** is the correct answer.

129. (d) The first **Gandharva Mahavidyalaya**, a pioneering institution for formal music education, was established in **1901** at Lahore by Vishnu Digambar Paluskar.

Significance:

- It was one of the first institutions to provide **systematic training in Indian classical music** to the general public.
- Before this, classical music was largely taught through the **guru-shishya tradition** and was often confined to royal courts and select families.
- Paluskar played a crucial role in democratizing and popularizing **Hindustani classical music**.

Therefore, (d) **Lahore** is the correct answer.

130. (c) The famous '**Dancing Girl**' figurine discovered at the ancient city of Mohenjo-daro is made of **bronze**.

Explanation:

- The statue is about **10.5 cm tall**.
- It was created using the **lost-wax casting technique** (also known as the *cire perdue* method).

- It is one of the finest examples of metal craftsmanship of the Indus Valley Civilization.
Therefore, the correct option is (c) bronze.
131. (a) In early Buddhist art, the Buddha was often represented **aniconically** (without depicting his human form). Various symbols were used to represent different events or aspects of his life.
An **empty seat (or vacant throne)** symbolizes the **presence and meditation of the Buddha**. Other important symbols include:
- **Dharmachakra (Wheel)**: The Buddha's **First Sermon** at Sarnath.
 - **Stupa**: The Buddha's **Mahaparinibbana**.
 - **Horse without rider (Kanthaka)**: The Buddha's **Mahabhinishkramana** (Great Departure).
 - **Bodhi Tree**: The Buddha's Enlightenment at Bodhi Gaya.
- Therefore, the correct option is (a)
132. (b) Analysis of the statements:
1. It was located in the lower Krishna valley.
✓ **Correct** – The famous Amaravati Stupa was situated on the banks of the Krishna River in the **lower Krishna valley** of present-day Andhra Pradesh.
 2. In India, it was next only to the Sanchi Stupa in size.
Incorrect – The Amaravati Stupa was actually **one of the largest Buddhist stupas in India**, and not merely second to the Sanchi Stupa. Hence, this statement is not correct.
 3. The Amaravati school of sculpture made a lasting impact on later South Indian sculpture, and its products were carried to Sri Lanka and South-east Asia.
✓ **Correct** – The Amaravati School of Art greatly influenced later South Indian art and spread to regions such as Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia.
- Therefore, **statements 1 and 3 are correct**
133. (d) Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur was one of the most distinguished exponents of the **Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana** in Hindustani classical music.
He was especially renowned for:
- Mastery over **rare and complex ragas**.
 - Powerful and expressive **Khayal singing**.
 - Preserving and popularizing the rich traditions of the Jaipur-Atrauli style.
- Therefore, the correct option is **Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana**.
134. (d) In Indian classical music, **Raga Bilawal** in the Hindustani system corresponds closely to **Dheera Shankarabharanam** (also known simply as **Shankarabharanam**) in the Carnatic system.
Explanation:
- **Bilawal Thaata** in Hindustani music uses all the **shuddha (natural) notes: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Dha Ni Sa**
 - **Dheera Shankarabharanam** in Carnatic music has the same scale: **S R₂ G₃ M₁ P D₂ N₃ S**
- Because both ragas employ the same set of natural notes, they are considered equivalent.
For comparison:
- **Nat Bhairavi** ≈ Hindustani **Asavari**
 - **Kamavardhini** ≈ Hindustani **Puriya Dhanashree**
 - **Hanumatodi** ≈ Hindustani **Bhairavi/Todi family**, but not Bilawal

Therefore, the correct option is (d)

135. (b) Analysis of the statements:
1. **Malegitti Shivalaya, Badami**
The Malegitti Shivalaya is primarily an example of the **Dravida style** and does not possess a typical Nagara-style shikhara.
 2. **Huchimalligudi Temple, Aihole** ✓
The Huchimalligudi Temple features a **Rekha-Nagara (curvilinear) shikhara**, making it an important experiment in early temple architecture.
 3. **Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh** ✓
The Dashavatara Temple is one of the earliest and finest examples of the **Nagara style** of temple architecture.
 4. **Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal**
The Virupaksha Temple is a classic example of the **Dravida style** with a pyramidal vimana, not a Nagara shikhara.
- Therefore, **statements 2 and 3 are correct**.
136. (b) According to Jain philosophy, there are **four main forms (gatis) of existence** through which a soul (jīva) transmigrates:
1. **Deva** (heavenly beings/gods)
 2. **Manushya** (human beings)
 3. **Tiryancha** (animals, plants, insects, etc.)
 4. **Naraka** (hell beings)
- Yakshas** are not one of these four principal categories. They are regarded as **attendant deities or demi-gods** associated with the Tirthankaras, but they do not constitute a separate gati.
Therefore, the correct option is (b) **Yaksha (demi-gods)**.
137. (a) The **Hallisalasya (or Hallisaka)** painting in the Bagh Caves depicts a **joyous folk dance performed in a circular formation**. The scene portrays dancers and musicians, reflecting the rich cultural and artistic traditions of ancient India.
The Bagh Caves, located in present-day Madhya Pradesh, are renowned for their exquisite mural paintings, which are often compared with those of the Ajanta Caves.
Therefore, the correct option is (a) **A joyous folk dance**.