

NEXT IAS

CSE (PRELIMS) PREVIOUS YEARS SOLVED PAPERS (2011-2022)

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*Director's
Message*

History is full of lessons, and History of UPSC Civil Services Examination lies in its previous year questions. I often tell students that the first and most important step to conquer an examination like UPSC Civil Services is to understand it thoroughly. The best way to understand the exam is through the syllabus and analysis of the previous year's questions. This book is an effort to make sure that you learn the most out of the history of the Civil Services Examination.

The book contains solved previous year questions of UPSC Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination from 2011-2022. The questions have been segregated subject-wise as well as topic-wise to make it more accessible for the students. The rationale behind including the questions starting from 2011 is the major shift in the pattern and difficulty level of the preliminary examination post-2011. A compilation from 2011-2022 ensures that the questions are in-line with the latest trend of the exam.

There are three distinctive features that make this book stand apart from the existing options. First, the answers have been thoroughly verified with the official answer key of UPSC. Second, all the options have been explained comprehensively with special emphasis on conceptual clarity. Third and the most important distinctive feature is its futuristic approach through a section of "Additional information" for each question. The recent trend shows that UPSC often frames questions around the core theme and the options of previous year questions. The section of "Additional Information" is intended to make students future-ready for such types of questions.

The NEXT IAS team has put sincere efforts in preparing this valuable resource for students. I hope this book will stand up to the expectations of aspirants and my desire to serve the student community by providing the best study material will get accomplished.

B. Singh (Ex. IES)

CMD, NEXT IAS & MADE EASY Group

CSE (PRELIMS) PREVIOUS YEARS SOLVED PAPERS (2011-2022)

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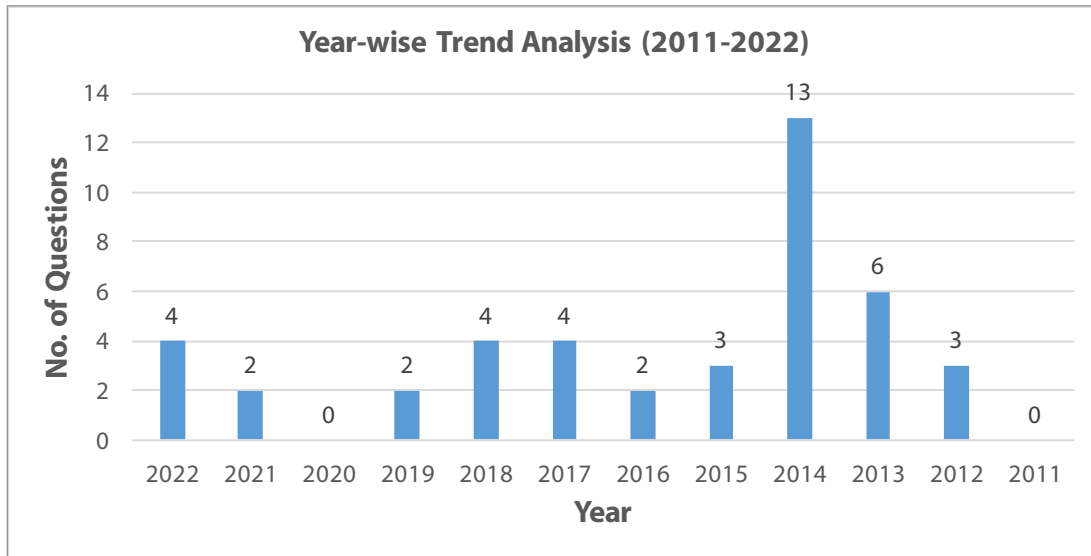
ART AND CULTURE

UNIT VII

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ART AND CULTURE



TOPIC-WISE TREND ANALYSIS (2011-2022)		
S.No.	Topics	Total Number of Questions
1.	Architecture and Sculpture	15
2.	Paintings	4
3.	Handicraft	1
4.	Performing Arts: Music, Dance, Theater and Puppetry	8
5.	Religion and Philosophy	5
6.	Miscellaneous	10

UNIT VII

ART AND CULTURE

1. ARCHITECTURE AND SCULPTURE

1. The Prime Minister recently inaugurated the new Circuit House near Somnath Temple at Veraval. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Somnath Temple?

1. Somnath Temple is one of the Jyotirlinga shrines.
2. A description of Somnath Temple was given by Al-Biruni.
3. Pran Pratishtha of Somnath Temple (installation of the present-day temple) was done by President S. Radhakrishnan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

(2022)

Ans. (a)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Somnath Temple is located at Veraval in the western coast of Gujarat. It is believed to be the first among the 12 jyotirlinga shrines of Lord Shiva.
- **Statement 2 is correct:**
 - ♦ Al-Biruni, an Arab traveller, visited India during the 11th century. In his book **Kitab-ul Hind**, he provides a vivid account of India. He has also written about the wealth of Somnath temple.
 - ♦ **He writes that the temple was built of stone and constructed about a hundred years prior to Mahmud's attack; that it was set in a fortress surrounded by the sea on three sides—presumably, its wealth had to be guarded. Al-Biruni also states that the upper part of the icon was broken at the orders of Mahmud and parts of it were taken back as loot to Ghazni.**

- **Statement 3 is not correct:**

- ♦ In November 1947, India's first Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had promised to rebuild the temple. Later on, **in 1951, Pran Pratishtha of Somnath Temple (installation of the present-day temple) was done by then President of India Dr Rajendra Prasad (and not by S. Radhakrishnan).**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Somnath temple is also mentioned in Rigveda.
- Somnath Temple is referred to as 'the Shrine Eternal' as it has been demolished and rebuilt six times.
- In 1026, Mahmud Ghazni plundered the precious jewels and property of Somnath temple.

2. Consider the following pairs:

(Historical place) : (Well-known for)

1. Burzahom : Rock-cut shrines
2. Chandraketugarh : Terracotta art
3. Ganeshwar : Copper artifacts

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

(2021)

Ans. (d)

- **Pair 1 is not correctly matched:** Burzahom is **one of the two important neolithic sites in the Kashmir valley (other one being Gufkral)**. Burzahom is famous for **pit dwelling**—people built pit-houses, which were dug into the ground, with steps leading into them. A burial at this site produced a **wild dog bone** and antler horn. Note that Burzahom and Gufkral have also revealed Megalithic and Early Historic phases.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Chandraketugarh is an archaeological site located in the north-east of Kolkata, West Bengal. Chandraketugarh was

among the most important early historic urban sites of eastern India. Excavations at Chandraketugarh unearthed the large number of terracotta artefacts ranging from pottery, seals, toys, figurines to plaques having erotic art. Some scholars have also argued that Chandraketugarh had maritime links with ancient Greece and Rome.

- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Ganeshwar is a village in Sikar District of Rajasthan. Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture was a chalcolithic culture spread over the northeastern part of Rajasthan (across the Baleshwar and Khetri copper deposit areas). Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture had an **unusual wealth of copper objects**. Many archaeologists also believe that **Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture was a centre for supplying copper artifacts to the Harappans**.
3. **With reference to Chausath Yogini Temple situated near Morena, consider the following statements:**
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 only (b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 4 only (d) 2, 3 and 4 only

(2021)

Ans. (c)

- Chausath Yogini temple (also known as Ekattarso Mahadeva Temple) is in Morena district, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Statement 1 is correct:**
 - ♦ According to an inscription dated to 1323 CE, the temple was built by King Devapala (1055 – 1075) of the Kachchapagata dynasty. The uniqueness of the Chausath Yogini temple is its circular shape.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:**
 - ♦ It is one among the very few circular temples in India (but not the only one).

- ♦ For example, there are Chausath Yogini temples at three other locations-Jabalpur, Hirapur, and Ranipur-Jharial (both in Odisha). They all are circular in shape.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:**
 - ♦ Chausath Yogini temple is dedicated to sixty-four yoginis. The temple premises consist of 64 small cells corresponding to the number of Yoginis, the female attendants of Goddess Kali, after whom the temple is named.
 - ♦ While the 64 Yoginis originally placed in the 64 subsidiary shrines are now missing, a Shiva linga has taken their place in each cell. The central shrine also holds a Shivalinga.
- **Statement 4 is correct:**
 - ♦ It is popularly believed that Chausath Yogini Temple inspired the design of the Indian Parliament, though there is no historical proof for this.



Chausath Yogini temple, Morena

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- It is made entirely of granite.
 - It is said that the temple was the venue for providing education in astrology and mathematics based on the transit of the Sun.
4. In which of the following relief sculpture inscriptions is 'Ranyo Ashoka' (King Ashoka) mentioned along with the stone portrait of Ashoka?
- (a) Kanganahalli (b) Sanchi
(c) Shahbazgrhi (d) Sohgaoura

(2019)

Ans. (a)

- Kanaganahalli in Karnataka is the site with an inscription in **Brahmi script reading "Ranyo Ashoka" (King Ashoka)**. Along with the inscription, there is a **sculpture-portrait of Ashoka with his queens** at the Kanaganahalli site.
- Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Maski edict specifically mentions the name "Ashoka" in conjunction with the title 'Devanampriya' (Beloved-of-the-Gods). This edict was important to conclude that the title "Devanampriya" was associated with Ashoka.

5. Building 'Kalyana Mandapas' was a notable feature in the temple construction in the kingdom of:

- (a) Chalukya (b) Chandela
(c) Rashtrakuta (d) Vijayanagara

(2019)

Ans. (d)

- Building 'Kalyana Mandapam' was a notable feature in the temple construction in the kingdom of **Vijayanagara**. The Kalyana Mandapa is an open pavilion that was utilized for ceremonies involving the symbolic weddings of the temple's deities. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.
- **Two main features of the temple architecture during the Vijayanagara empire:**
 - ♦ **Tall Raya Gopurams or royal gateways:** They often dwarfed the towers on the central shrines, and signaled the presence of the temple from a great distance.
 - ♦ **Kalyana Mandapam with carved pillars:** The sculptures on the pillars were carved with distinctive features. The **horse was the most common animal found on these pillars**. Large Mandapams contain one hundred pillars as well as one thousand pillars in some big temples.
- The most important temples built are Vittalaswamy and Hazara Ramaswamy temples, the Stone chariot at Hampi, Varadharaja and Ekamparanatha temples at Kanchipuram.

6. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements:

1. White marble was used in making Buland Darwaza and Khankah at Fatehpur Sikri.
2. Red Sandstone and marble were used in making Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza in Lucknow.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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

(2018)

Ans. (d)

Statement 1 is not correct:

- Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri is made of red sandstone, while Khankah of Salim Chisti is made of white marble.
- Buland Darwaza was built to commemorate Akbar's conquest of Gujarat in 1573. Its surface is covered by marble slabs inscribed with Quranic verses.

Statement 2 is not correct:

- Imambara literally means House of Imam. Imambaras are congregation halls where Shia Muslims assemble to observe mourning for Imam Husain, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. **Bara Imambara was built by Asaf-ud-Daula, Nawab of Lucknow, in 1784.**
- Instead of stones and marble, **Bara Imambara of Lucknow was built with brick and lime**. Stucco ornamentation (gajkari) was used to decorate the monuments. This skill is more prominent in the delicately built **Rumi Darwaza which was the main gateway to the Bara Imambara**. It's also called the "Turkish Gateway".

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fatehpur Sikri is a town in the Agra District of Uttar Pradesh, India. The city itself was **founded as the capital of the Mughal Empire in 1571 by Emperor Akbar**. But the shortage of water compelled him to abandon the city. Within 20 years, the capital of Mughals was shifted to Lahore. **Fatehpur Sikri was awarded the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986.**

7. Which of the following is/are famous for Sun temples?

1. Arasavalli
2. Amarkantak
3. Omkareshwar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

(2017)

Ans. (a)

- Among the given choices, only Arasavalli is famous for its Sun temple.
- **Arasavalli Sun Temple:**
 - ♦ It is situated in **Andhra Pradesh**. It was built by **King Devendra Verma in the 7th Century**.
 - ♦ **Religious history:** According to Padma Puranam, sage Kashyapa had installed the idol of the Sun God for the welfare of Mankind.
 - ♦ **Architecture:** It is built in Panchayatana style (i.e. main shrine is surrounded by four subsidiary shrines). **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**
- **Amarkantak:**
 - ♦ It is the meeting point of Vindhya, Maikal and Satpura ranges, known as the Teerthraj - the king of pilgrimages. The Narmada, one of the holiest rivers of India, originates here.
 - ♦ Mystic poet, Sant Kabir, is said to have meditated at Kabirchabutra, Amarkantak.
 - ♦ The group of **ancient temples of the Kalachuri period** such as Machhendranath, Pataleshwar and Kailash Narayan, **Shri Yantra Mandir**, Mrityunjay Ashram, Bhriku Kamandal are some of the famous temples of Amarkantak.
- **Omkareshwar:**
 - ♦ Omkareshwar is **one of the 12 jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva**. The island of omkareshwar is naturally shaped like 'OM', the sacred hindu symbol.
 - ♦ Apart from the Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga temple, it's also famous for the three-storey **Gauri Somnath Temple made in the shape of a peahen**.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other Sun Temples of India:

Temple	State	Associated Ruler / Dynasty
Modhera Sun Temple	Gujarat	King Bhima I of the Chalukya Dynasty (early 11th century)
Konark Sun Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site)	Odisha	King Narasimhadeva I of Eastern Ganga dynasty (1250 CE)
Martand Sun Temple	Kashmir	Lalitaditya Muktapida, Karkota Dynasty (8th Century)
Dakshinaarka Temple	Bihar	Prataparudra (current structure)
Brahmanya Dev Temple	Unao (Madhya Pradesh)	Ruler of Datia
Suryanaar Kovil	Tamil Nadu	Kulothunga Chola (11th century)

8. What is/are common to the two historical places known as Ajanta and Mahabalipuram?

1. Both were built in the same period.
2. Both belong to the same religious denomination.
3. Both have rock-cut monuments.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) None of the statements given above is correct

(2016)

Ans. (b)

- **Statement 1 is not correct:**
 - ♦ Ajanta caves were created in two phases. The Early phase was during the Satavahana period (2nd century BCE to 1st century CE) which was built from donations made by monks, merchants, and common people. The second phase of activity at the site is dated to the 5th century CE. Caves of the second phase were built through individual donations from wealthy patrons connected

to the Vakataka kings. For example, Cave 16 was donated by Vakataka King Hariṣeṇa's secretary or minister Varahadeva.

- ♦ On the other hand, the city of Mahabalipuram was founded by the Pallava king Narasimhavarman I in the 7th century CE.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** Major themes of **Ajanta** revolve around **Buddhism** (Both Hinayana and Mahayana). Whereas, the themes of **Mahabalipuram** revolve around **Hinduism** (E.g. Famous sculptures of the Descent of the Ganges also known as Arjuna's Penance, Shore temple dedicated to Lord Shiva etc.)
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ajanta is a **series of rock-cut caves** in Maharashtra's Sahyadri ranges on the **Waghora River near Aurangabad**. Mahabalipuram complex also has rock-cut Caves like **Varaha Cave Temple, Krishna Cave Temple, Panchapandava Cave Temple, and the Mahishasuramardini Mandapa**.

- The town was founded by **Pallava King—Narasimhavarman**, also known as Mamalla—for whom the town was named.
- **Famous architecture & sculpture:** Ratha Temples (Pancha ratha), Sculpture of Descent of the Ganges also known as Arjuna's Penance, Shore Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, Rock-cut Caves like Varaha Cave Temple, Krishna Cave Temple, Panchapandava Cave Temple etc.
- It was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1984.

9. **With reference to the art and archaeological history of India, which one among the following was made earliest?**
- Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar
 - Rock-cut Elephant at Dhauli
 - Rock-cut Monuments at Mahabalipuram
 - Varaha Image at Udayagiri

(2015)

Ans. (b)

- Among the given options, the rock-cut elephant at Dhauli, Odisha is the earliest made art. The rock edicts of Asoka and the sculpture of an elephant are located on a hillock known as Aswathama hill on the left bank of the river Daya. On the basis of the paleography and the sculptural features of the elephant, the antiquity of this place can be dated back to the Mauryan period, i.e. the 3rd century B.C. **Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ajanta Caves:

- Ajanta is the **only surviving example** of painting of the **first century BCE and the fifth century CE**.
- The **life of Buddha and Jataka stories is the main theme** of paintings. The **painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani (also known as Avalokiteshvara) holding a lotus in his hand** is one of the masterpieces of Ajanta Painting.
- Figures in these caves are painted with considerable naturalism and there is no over-stylisation.
- One striking feature was the **absence of blue color in the paintings**.
- The caves were designated a **UNESCO World Heritage site** in 1983.



Bodhisattva Padmapani, Ajanta caves I

Mahabalipuram:

- Lies along the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Udayagiri Caves (5th century AD):** They are situated near Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh. They were built in the **early fifth century AD** under the patronage of **Chandragupta II** and are famous for the numerous sculptures on the hill walls. **The sculpture of Varaha, or the Boar incarnation of Vishnu**, is noteworthy. One of the earliest Hindu sculptures can be found in the caves.
- **Rock-cut Monuments at Mahabalipuram (7th century AD):** The ancient port city of Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu flourished with a variety of magnificent architecture during the Pallava dynasty. This Pallava site from the 7th century was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984 under the name "Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram."**

- **Lingaraja Temple at Bhubaneswar, Odisha (11th century AD):** The temple is devoted to Lord Harihara, which essentially means it is dedicated to Hari (Lord Vishnu) and Hara (Lord Shiva). It was built by the **Somavamsi dynasty in the 11th century. It is built in a Kalinga Style of Temple Architecture.**

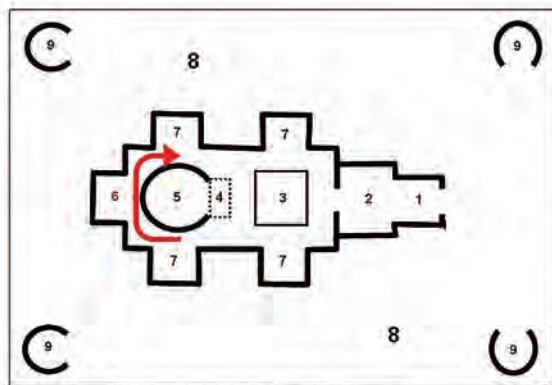
10. With reference to the cultural history of India, the term 'Panchayatana' refers to:

- an assembly of village elders
- a religious sect
- a style of temple construction
- an administrative functionary

(2014)

Ans. (c)

- **The Panchayatana** style of architecture is the one where main shrine is built on a rectangular plinth with four smaller subsidiary shrines at the four corners (making it a total number of five shrines, hence the name, panchayatana).
- **Examples of Panchayatana:** Dashavatara temple at Deogarh (Uttar Pradesh), Durga temple at Aihole (Karnataka). **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**



- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Ardha mandapa | 6. Pradakshina |
| 2. Mandapa | 7. Transepts |
| 3. Maha mandapa | 8. Jagati |
| 4. Antarala | 9. Subsidiary shrines |
| 5. Garba griha | |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Two broad orders of temples in the country are — **Nagara in the north and Dravida in the south.** At times, the **Vesara style** of temples, created through the selective mixing of the Nagara and Dravida orders is mentioned as an independent style by some scholars.

11. Some Buddhist rock-cut caves are called Chaityas, while the others are called Viharas. What is the difference between the two?

- Vihara is a place of worship, while Chaitya is the dwelling place of the monks
- Chaitya is a place of worship, while Vihara is the dwelling place of the monks
- Chaitya is the stupa at the far end of the cave, while Vihara is the hall axial to it
- There is no material difference between the two

(2013)

Ans. (b)

- Chaityas were sacred buddhist enclosures that were a regular part of the worship in the gana-sanghas.
 - ♦ The chaitya complex also at times contained a stupa, originally a funeral monument and a memorial relic later on, which was the main object of worship in Buddhism before the introduction of image worship by the Mahayana school. In Karla, the biggest rock-cut chaitya hall was excavated.
- Viharas were basically halls with many cells along all sides where monks would dwell and meditate.
 - ♦ With time many Viharas-Nalanda, Odantpuri, Vikramshila etc- went on to become great centers of learning as well. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

12. With reference to the history of Indian rock-cut architecture, consider the following statements:

- The caves at Badami are the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India.
- The Barabar rock-cut caves were originally made for Ajivikas by Emperor Chandragupta Maurya.
- At Ellora, caves were made for different faiths.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

(2013)

Ans. (c)

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Barabar Caves are the oldest surviving rock-cut caves in India,

mostly dating from the Maurya Empire (322–185 BCE), some with Ashokan inscriptions. The caves were used by ascetics from the Ajivika sect, founded by Makkali Gosala, a contemporary of Gautama Buddha and Mahavira.

- The Badami cave temples are located in the town of Badami in the north-central part of Karnataka, India. Badami, the one-time capital of the Chalukyas, is noted for several temples, some structural and other rock-cut, of the 6th and 7th Centuries. The Chalukyan king, Mangalesa (598-610 AD) was responsible for the completion

of these cave temples. Of the four, three are Brahmanical, while the fourth is Jain.

- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Barabar and Nagarjuni caves in Bihar were **built during the reign of Ashoka and his grandson Dasharatha** in the third century BC.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is a unique art-historical site as it has caves associated with the three religions dating from the fifth century CE onwards to the eleventh century CE. There are a total of 34 caves — 17 Brahmanical, 12 Buddhist, and 5 Jainas.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ellora Caves

- It is located in the state of Maharashtra with **Artwork dating from the 600–1000 CE period.**
- These were built during the **Rashtrakuta dynasty and the Yadava dynasty.**
- **Kailash temple**, a chariot shaped monument dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- These caves are excavated from the basalt cliffs in the Charanandri Hills.
- The Ellora complex was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage** site in 1983.

Badami Cave Temple

- Badami (Karnataka) was the **capital of Chalukyas.**
- Four cave temples based on Hinduism (3) and Jainism (1) are found here.
- They are the earliest known temples in the Deccan region.
- These caves have intricately carved reliefs of Nataraja, Trivikrama, Anantasayana, Vasudeva, Varaha, Harihara and Narasimha.
- Jain structures of Bahubali, Parshvanatha and Mahavira with a symbolic display of the other Tirthankaras also found here.

Barabar Caves

- Barabar caves situated in Bihar are the **oldest surviving rock-cut caves comprising the Lomas Rishi Cave, Sudama Caves, Vishwakarma Caves** and Karan Chaupar Caves.
- They were constructed **by emperor Ashoka for the use of Ajivaka ascetics.**

13. The Nagara, the Dravida and the Vesara are the:

- three main racial groups of the Indian subcontinent
- three main linguistic divisions into which the languages of Indian can be classified
- three main styles of Indian temple architecture
- three main musical Gharanas prevalent in India

(2012)

Ans. (c)

- Nagara, the Dravida and the Vesara are the styles of temple architecture. **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Different styles of Temple Architecture

<p>Nagara (North Indian Temple Style)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entire temple is built on a stone platform with steps leading up to it • Usually does not have elaborate boundary walls or gateways. • The garbhagriha is always located directly under the tallest tower.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Images of Mithunas, river goddess at entrance of garbhagriha (tower). • There are many subdivisions of nagara temples depending on the shape of the shikhara: (a) Rekha-prasada (b) Phamsana (c) Valabhi. • Examples- Sun Temple Konark, Dashavatara Temple Deogarh.
Dravidian (South Indian Temple Style)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The temple is enclosed within a compound wall. • The front wall has an entrance gateway in its center, which is known as a gopuram. • The shape of the main temple tower known as vimana is like a stepped pyramid that rises up geometrically (unlike the Nagara style Shikhara that is curving). • Garbhagriha has one of the smallest towers. This is because it is usually the oldest part of the temple. • Images of Dvarapala at the entrance of garbhagriha. • In the South Indian temple, the word 'shikhara' is used only for the crowning element at the top of the temple which is usually shaped like a small stupika or an octagonal cupola—this is equivalent to the amlak and kalasha of North Indian temples. • Examples-Kanchipuram, Thanjavur or Tanjore, Madurai and Kumbakonam Tamil Nadu, Brahadeeshwarar, Thanjavur, Shore temple, Mahabalipuram etc.
Vesara Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is known as the Karnataka school of architecture. • It was formed under the later Chalukya rulers in the mid-7th century AD. • It has combined features of both the Nagara school and Dravidian school which resulted in a hybridized style. • Example-Kailasha temple in Ellora

14. With reference to the Indian history of art and culture, consider the following pairs:

	Famous work of sculpture	Site
1	A grand image of Buddha's Mahaparinirvana with numerous celestial musicians above and the sorrowful figures of his followers below	Ajanta
2	A huge image of Varaha Avatar (boar incarnation) of Vishnu, as he rescues Goddess Earth from the deep and chaotic waters, sculpted on rock	Mount Abu
3	"Arjuna's Penance"/"Descent of Ganga" sculpted on the surface of huge boulders	Mamallapuram

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

(2014)

Ans. (c)

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Mahaparinirvana of Buddha in Cave No. 26 of Ajanta is a prominent sculpture, also known as Reclining Buddha. Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana (great salvation) at Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 80 around 483 BC.
- **Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** The iconic image of Varaha Avatar (boar incarnation) of Vishnu is sculpted on the rock of **Udayagiri Caves**, situated in the Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh. These caves were built in the early fifth century AD under the patronage of Chandragupta II and are famous for the numerous sculptures on the hill walls.

- **Pair 3 is correctly matched: Descent of the Ganges, also known as Arjuna's Penance** or Bhagiratha's Penance, is carved on two massive boulders in the **Mamallapuram group of monuments**. It tells the **story of the River Ganga's descent from heaven to earth** through the efforts of Bhagiratha. The ancient port city of **Mamallapuram** in Tamil Nadu flourished with a variety of magnificent architecture during the Pallava dynasty. This Pallava site from the 7th century was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984 under the name "Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram."**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Mount Abu is mentioned in Puranas as **"Arbudaranya" or "the forest of Arbhuda"**.
- **Dilwara temples** in Mount Abu, Rajasthan, are a major Jain pilgrimage site.
- Vimal Shah built the oldest, Vimal Vasahi temple, in the 11th century AD. Other temples built between the 13th and 17th centuries include Luna Vasahi, Pittalhar, Parshvanath, and Mahavir Swami.
- **Guru Shikhar** is the highest peak of the Aravalli Range and lies about 15 kilometers from Mount Abu.

15. With reference to Buddhist history, tradition and culture in India, consider the following pairs:

	Famous shrine	Location
1	Tabo monastery and temple complex	Spiti Valley
2	Lhotsava Lhakhang temple, Nako	Zanskar Valley
3	Alchi temple complex	Ladakh

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

(2014)

Ans. (c)

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched: Tabo Monastery** is in **Tabo village of Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh**. It was founded in 996 AD by Buddhist king and

monk Yeshe who was assisted by Richen Gampo, translator of Sanskrit Buddhist texts into Tibetan. It is sometimes referred to as the **Ajanta of the Himalayas** for its artworks and cave paintings.

- **Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** Nako village is situated 3,600 meters **above the Spiti River**, in the Kinnaur region of Himachal Pradesh. Nako is among the most isolated villages on earth. The main temple of Nako is called the **Lhotsava Lhakhang, or the temple of the great translator Rinchen Zangpo**. The temple has some of the finest surviving wall paintings of its period.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched: Alchi temple complex** is situated in Alchi village in the **Leh District, under the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council** of the Ladakh Union Territory. It is believed that it was built by Rinchen Zangpo. Alchi is regarded **as one of the monastic jewels of Ladakh**. One of its walls features **thousands of miniature sized pictures of the Buddha**.

2. PAINTINGS

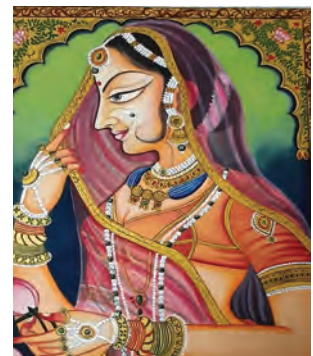
1. The well-known painting "Bani Thani" belongs to the:

- (a) Bundi school
- (b) Jaipur school
- (c) Kangra school
- (d) Kishangarh school

(2018)

Ans. (d)




- Bani Thani painting **belongs to the Kishangarh School of Indian miniature paintings**. Raja Sawant Singh composed devotional poetry on Krishna and Radha in Brajhasha under the pen name Nagari Das. He is said to have been passionately in love with a young singer, who was accorded the title 'Bani Thani'. He writes about her in a poem *Bihari Jas Chandrika*, which became the basis for Nihal Chand's painting of Bani Thani, thus, representing a blending of poetry and painting.



Bani Thani, Kishangarh school of painting

- Kishangarh school of painting:** Kishangarh Painting is an **18th-century school of the Rajasthani style of Indian painting** that arose in the princely state of Kishangarh. Kishangarh paintings are **distinguished by their exquisite sophistication and distinct facial type** exemplified by arched eyebrows, lotus petal shaped eyes slightly tinged with pink, having drooping eyelids, a sharp slender nose and thin lips. **'Krishna Lila'** is a prominent theme in these paintings. **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Schools of Paintings	Important Features
<p>BUNDI SCHOOL</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rajasthani style of Indian miniature painting (17th- 19th century). ● One of the earliest examples of the Bundi Paintings is the Bundi Ragamala dated 1591. ● Bundi paintings emphasized on hunting, court scenes, festivals, processions, life of nobles, lovers, animals, birds and scenes from Lord Krishna's life. ● The famous Chitra Shala in Bundi provides a colorful glimpse of history.
<p>JAIPUR SCHOOL</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Jaipur School of painting originated in its former capital Amer. ● Jaipur School of paintings thrived under Sawai jai Singh's reign and emerged as a well-defined independent school. ● A blend of Mughal and indigenous stylistic features is found. ● Artists during his reign painted sets based on Rasikapriya, Gita Govinda, Baramasa and Ragamala, where the hero's figure is in striking resemblance with the king.
<p>KANGRA SCHOOL</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kangra painting is the pictorial art of Kangra, named after Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. ● It became prevalent with the fading of the Basohli school of painting in the mid-18th century. ● Later, Pahari painting school came to be known as Kangra paintings. ● The Kangra painters made use of pure colors like yellow, red and blue. ● The most popular themes that were painted were the Bhagavata Purana, Gita Govinda, Nala Damayanti, Bihari Satsai, Ragamala, and Baramasa. ● Tira Sujanpur emerged as the most prolific center of painting under the patronage of Raja Sansar Chand.

2. The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and soft-illustrated paintings at:
- (a) Ajanta (b) Badami
 (c) Bagh (d) Ellora

(2017)

Ans. (a)

- The famous painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is in Ajanta Cave number 1.** It dates back to

the late fifth century CE. The Bodhisattva is holding a padma (lotus), has large shoulders, and has three bents in the body creating a movement in the picture space. The figure of the Bodhisattva is wearing a big crown in which detailed rendering is visible. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**About Bodhisattva Padmapani:**

- Bodhisattvas were supposed to be persons who had attained enlightenment, but they remained in the world to teach and help other people. Bodhisattva Padmapani is also known as **Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara**. Avalokitasvara is a bodhisattva who embodies the compassion of all Buddhas.

Bagh caves:

- These caves were first **discovered in 1818**, situated in the **Narmada valley** among the southern slopes of the Vindhya hill. These caves belong to the **Buddhist faith**. The caves often became the **abode of Tigers (Bagh)** which gave them the present name. The **paintings at Bagh caves are almost contemporaneous with those at Ajanta**.
- It consists of Buddhist mural paintings. These rock-cut cave monuments are not natural but carved over a period of time in ancient India mostly during the Satavahana period.

3. Consider the following historical places:

1. Ajanta Caves
2. Lepakshi Temple
3. Sanchi Stupa

Which of the above places is/are also known for mural paintings?

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

(2013)

Ans. (b)

- Among the given choices, only Ajanta caves and Lepakshi Temple are known for mural paintings.
- **About Mural painting:**
 - ♦ Mural is a type of wall painting. In murals, the ground is the wall or the stone of the cave. Paint is applied directly on to the wall plaster. To bind the paint to the plaster the colours are often put on wet plaster so that it fuses with it. But all paintings done on walls are not necessarily called mural paintings. This term is usually reserved for classical styles used for temples, churches and palaces.
- **Ajanta caves:**
 - ♦ Ajanta caves are situated in Maharashtra State near Aurangabad. There are 30 caves

chiseled out of the rock in a semicircular fashion. The earliest of them is probably out in the **2nd century B.C.** and the latest is sometime in the **7th century A.D.**

- ♦ **The subject matter of the mural paintings in Ajanta is almost exclusively Buddhist**, excepting decorative patterns on the ceilings and the pillars. They are mostly associated with the **Jatakas, a collection of stories, recording the previous births of the Lord Buddha**.
- **Lepakshi temple:**
 - ♦ Lepakshi temple (also known as **Sri Veerabhadra Swamy temple**) is dedicated to Veerabhadra (the fiery incarnation of Lord Shiva). The temple is located in Lepakshi, in the state of Andhra Pradesh. It is built in the Vijayanagar architectural style.
 - ♦ The Mural paintings at Lepakshi temple illustrate **Saivaite and secular themes**. These paintings illustrate **scenes from the Mahabharata, Ramayana and Puranas**.
 - ♦ One of the major highlights of the temple is the **Hanging Pillar**.
 - ♦ **A gigantic statue of Nandi**, also known as Basavanna, is located about 200 mts away from the temple.
 - ♦ **Mythology:** Name of Lepakshi is associated with one incident of Ramayana. Jatayu, a vulture deity, sparred with Ravana to rescue Sita. He was wounded during the battle and fell to the ground. A distraught Rama, overcome by compassion, uttered the words 'Le Pakshi'-meaning 'rise bird' in Telugu.
 - ♦ Recently, Sri Veerabhadra Swamy temple and the Monolithic Bull (Nandi) at Lepakshi were included in the **tentative list of the World Heritage Committee**.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Sanchi Stupa:**

- The great stupa at Sanchi **was built with bricks during the time of Ashoka (3rd century BCE)**.
- It enshrines **religious relics or remains of the Buddha and his most revered disciples**.

- In the middle of the second century BC, **during the Shunga period, the original brick structure was enlarged** to twice its size and the mound was covered in sandstone slabs.
- **During the Satavahana period** (1st century BC - 2nd century AD), **four stone gateways or toranas were added** to the stupa in the four cardinal directions.
- **During the Gupta period**, further additions to Sanchi were made to include **a Buddhist temple and a lion pillar.**

4. **Kalamkari painting refers to:**
- a hand-painted cotton textile in South India**
 - a handmade drawing on bamboo handicrafts in North-East India**
 - a block-painted woolen cloth in Western Himalayan region of India**
 - a hand-painted decorative silk cloth in North-Western India**

(2015)

Ans. (a)

- The literal meaning of Kalamkari is a painting done by kalam (pen). **Andhra Pradesh** is famous all over for this form of art. It is hand painted as well as block printing with **vegetable dyes applied on cloth.**
- A small place **Sri-Kalahasti is the best known centre of Kalamkari art.** The Srikalahasthi style of Kalamkari is used mostly for **narrating the religious myths and also epics on fabric.**
- This art is mainly related to decorating temple interiors with painted cloth panels. This art flourished during the Mughal period and in the 16th and 17th centuries, the items made by them were kanat or tent covers used during encampments, prayer, mats, etc. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Name	Region	Features
Warli	Maharashtra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of social life • Depicted on walls of village houses.
Madhubani	Bihar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bright colors • Use of tribal motifs

Name	Region	Features
Madhubani	Bihar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditionally done by women, though today men are also involved.
Kalighat	Bengal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of watercolor • Social, Religious theme
Manjusha	Bihar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snake paintings • Paintings on jute, paper, wall, fabric, etc.
Thangka	Sikkim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhist theme • Scroll Painting
Kalamezhuthu	Kerala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ritualistic art practiced in temples • Representation of deities like kali, Ayyappa

3. HANDICRAFT

1. **Consider the following towns of India:**

- Bhadrachalam**
- Chanderi**
- Kancheepuram**
- Karnal**

Which of the above are famous for the production of traditional sarees/fabric?

- 1 and 2 only**
- 2 and 3 only**
- 1, 2 and 3 only**
- 1, 3 and 4 only**

(2014)

Ans. (b)

- Among the given choices, only Chanderi and Kancheepuram are famous for traditional sarees/fabric.
- **Chanderi:** It is a small 11th century town located in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh. It is known for its quaint forts, hills and elegant hand-woven Chanderi sarees. The Chanderi sari tradition began in the 13th century. During the Mughal period, the textile business of Chanderi reached its peak.
- **Kancheepuram:** Believed to be more than a thousand years old, the city was ruled by various dynasties including Cholas, Pallavas, Vijayanagar and subsequently the British. It is known for its World famous Kancheepuram silk sarees.

Kancheepuram is also known as the 'Golden City Of A Thousand Temples'.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Bhadrachalam:** It is a key **town of pilgrimage importance** located in the Khammam District of **Telangana**. The temple town of Bhadrachalam is situated on the banks of Godavari River. The town is synonymous for its famous temple devoted to Lord Rama. According to Mythology, **the present town was once part of the Dandakaranya forest, which Lord Sri Rama, Sita and Lakshmana had visited during their exile** also called vanavasam according to local parlance.
- **Karnal:** Known as the **rice bowl of India**, it is one of the oldest districts of Haryana. The place got its share of fame in 1739 when **Nadir Shah defeated Muhammad Shah here**. The city is known as a **walled town**. The citadel of old time can still be seen in the form of **Kot Mohalla (Kot means fort)**.

4. PERFORMING ARTS: MUSIC, DANCE, THEATER AND PUPPETRY

1. With reference to culture history of India, consider the following statements:
 1. Most of the Tyagaraja Kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
 2. Tyagaraja created several new ragas.
 3. Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
 4. Annamacharya kirtnas are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

(2018)

Ans. (b)

- Tyagaraja is regarded as one of three major composers of Carnatic music (Trinity of Carnatic Music) who flourished at Tanjore or Thanjavur in the early 19th century, the others being Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri.
- The Trinity was not only contemporaries among themselves but also contemporaries of great

composers of Western Music, such as Beethoven, Mozart, Wagner, and Haydn.

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Tyagaraja composed the music and penned the lyrics of thousands of kritis, mostly in praise of lord Rama.
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** Tyagaraja seems to have adopted **composing in new ragas as one of the aims of his musical career**. He was the first to compose kritis in about 66 ragas. He is also credited with various musical innovations, including the use of a structured variation of musical lines within the performance.
 - **Statement 3 is not correct:** Annamacharya was the **mystic saint composer of the 15th century**, whereas Tyagaraja belonged to the 18th century.
 - **Statement 4 is correct:** Annamacharya composed sankeertanas in praise of **Lord Venkateswara**, a **manifestation of Lord Vishnu**, and his **compositions were mostly in Telugu**. He is widely known as the **"Grandfather of Telugu Songwriting"**.
2. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements:
 1. It is a song and dance performance.
 2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
 3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(2017)

Ans. (b)

- **Statements 1 and 3 are correct:** Sankirtana is a ritual dance and music form of Manipur that dates back to the 15th century AD. This art form is performed to **commemorate religious occasions as well as different stages in the lives of Manipuri Vaishnavites**. Sankirtana practices centre on the temple, where **performers narrate the lives and deeds of Krishna** through song and dance.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** As musical instruments, primarily **cymbals and drums are used**. Male dancers also play the Pung and Kartal while dancing. The masculine aspect of dance - the Choloms are a part of the Sankirtana tradition.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Early records state that kirtana singing entered Manipur in the fifteenth century during the reign of King Kiyamba (1467-1508) of Bengal.
- Sankirtana was included in the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2013.

3. With reference to the famous Sattriya dance, consider the following statements:

1. Sattriya is a combination of music, dance and drama.
2. It is a centuries-old living tradition of Vaishnavites of Assam.
3. It is based on classical Ragas and Talas of devotional songs composed by Tulsidas, Kabir and Mirabai.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

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

(2014)

Ans. (b)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sattriya is a neo-Vaishnava treasure of Assamese music, dance and drama which has been recognized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi as an Indian classical dance.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sattriya dance form was introduced in the 15th century A.D by the great Vaishnava saint and reformer of Assam, Mahapurusha Sankaradeva as a powerful medium for propagation of the Vaishnava faith.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Sattriya has its own unique style of music, based on classical ragas and the talas (rhythm) of borgeets (devotional songs) composed by Sankardeva and Madhavdeva in the 15th-16th centuries.

4. Consider the following pairs:

1. Garba : Gujarat
2. Mohiniattam : Odisha
3. Yakshagana : Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above is / are correctly matched?

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

(2014)

Ans. (c)

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Garba is a popular Gujarati folk dance performed during Navratri.
- **Pair 2 is not correctly matched:** Mohiniattam is a classical dance form of Kerala. Mohiniattam or the Dance of an Enchantress is a solo dance performance by women. According to a Puranic story, Lord Vishnu took on the guise of a 'Mohini' to seduce the Asuras, both in connection with churning of the ocean and episode of the slaying of Bhasmasura. It is characterized by graceful, swaying body movements with no abrupt jerks or sudden leaps. It belongs to the lasya style which is feminine, tender, and graceful.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Yakshagana is one of the oldest theater traditions still practiced in Karnataka and parts of Kerala. The origin of Yakshagana can be traced back to the Vaishnava Bhakti movement which spread with vigor after the 10th Century. The themes present in Yakshagana are generally taken from the epics such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata or the Puras which are ancient Hindu texts.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

State	Folk Dances
Assam	Bihu, Natpuja, Maharas, Kaligopal, Naga dance, Khel Gopal.
Arunachal Pradesh	Wancho, Buiya, Chalo, Pasi Kongki
Gujarat	Garba, Dandiya Raas, Bhavai, Tippani Juriun
Goa	Fugdi Tarangamel, Koli, Dekhni, Shigmo, Ghode, Modni, Jagar, Ranmale
Jammu & Kashmir	Rauf, Hikar, Mandjas, Kud Dandi Nach
Karnataka	Yakshagana, Huttari, Suggi, Kunita, Karga
Maharashtra	Lavani, Nakata, Koli, Lezim, Gafa, Dahikala Dasavtar
Odisha	Savari, Ghumara, Painka, Munari
Tripura	Hojagiri
Nagaland	Rangma, Zeliang, Nsuirolians, Gethinglim