



AFCAT HISTORY

Notes + Complete Solved PYQ Bank

Ancient India | Medieval India | Modern India

01. Indus Valley Civilisation

Chronology	Early Harappan c. 3300-2600 BCE; Mature Harappan c. 2600-1900 BCE; Late Harappan c. 1900-1300 BCE.
Extent	From Sutkagendor in the west to Alamgirpur in the east, and from Manda in the north to Daimabad in the south.
Urban character	Planned streets, drainage, standardised baked bricks, wells, craft quarters, citadels and lower towns.
Economy	Wheat, barley, pulses, sesame and cotton; cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat; long-distance trade with Mesopotamia.
Metals	Copper, bronze, gold, silver, lead and tin were known; iron was not used by the Harappans.
Weights and measures	Standardised cubical weights, largely binary in the lower denominations, supported regulated exchange.
Script	Mostly short pictographic inscriptions, generally written right to left; the script remains undeciphered.
Seals	Usually steatite; the unicorn motif is most common. Seals likely served administrative, commercial or identity functions.
Religion	Evidence suggests ritual bathing, fertility symbolism, tree and animal reverence; interpretations of a mother goddess or proto-Shiva remain debated.
Burials	Extended inhumation was common; burial practices varied and no monumental royal tombs are known.
Harappa	On the Ravi in Punjab, Pakistan; excavated by Daya Ram Sahni. Granaries, Cemetery R-37 and coffin burial are notable.
Mohenjo-daro	On the Indus in Sindh; excavated by R. D. Banerji. Great Bath, bronze Dancing Girl and Priest-King sculpture.
Chanhudaro	In Sindh; excavated by N. G. Majumdar. Craft-production centre, bead-making and no separate citadel.
Lothal	On the Bhogava system in Gujarat; excavated by S. R. Rao. Dock-like basin, warehouse, bead factory and rice evidence.
Kalibangan	On the Ghaggar in Rajasthan; associated with Amlanand Ghosh and B. B. Lal. Ploughed field and fire altars.
Banawali	On the Ghaggar-Drishadvati system in Haryana; excavated by R. S. Bisht. Early and Mature Harappan phases.
Dholavira	In Kutch, Gujarat; discovered by J. P. Joshi and excavated by R. S. Bisht. Three-part city, reservoirs and signboard.

Rakhigarhi	In Haryana; the largest known Harappan site in India and one of the civilisation's largest urban centres.
Surkotada	In Kutch; fortified settlement. Horse-bone claims are debated and should not be treated as conclusive.
Sutkagendor	Western coastal trading outpost near the Iran-Pakistan border; marks the western extent.
Alamgirpur	Late Harappan site in Uttar Pradesh on the Hindon; marks the eastern extent.
Manda	Harappan site in Jammu on the Chenab; generally cited as the northern extent.
Daimabad	Late Harappan-related site in Maharashtra on the Pravara; generally cited as the southern extent.
Ropar	Harappan site on the Sutlej in Punjab; known for human burial with a dog.
Rangpur	Harappan site in Gujarat associated with rice husk and Late Harappan pottery.
Decline	Urban decline was gradual and regionally varied; river shifts, environmental stress and changing trade were factors. A single invasion theory is rejected.

ANCIENT INDIA

02. Vedic Age and Mahajanapadas

Rigvedic phase	c. 1500-1000 BCE; pastoral society in the north-west, tribal polities and cattle as an important measure of wealth.
Later Vedic phase	c. 1000-600 BCE; expansion into the Ganga-Yamuna plains, iron use, agriculture and stronger territorial kingdoms.
Rig Veda	Oldest Veda; 1,028 hymns in 10 Mandalas. Mandalas II-VII are known as the family books.
Sama Veda	Collection of chants derived mainly from Rigvedic verses; closely associated with music and ritual singing.
Yajur Veda	Sacrificial formulae and ritual instructions; exists in Shukla and Krishna recensions.
Atharva Veda	Charms, spells, healing, household rites and speculative hymns; Sabha and Samiti are called daughters of Prajapati here.
Vedatrayi	The traditional triad of Rig, Sama and Yajur Vedas; Atharva gained canonical status later.
Brahmanas	Prose texts explaining sacrifices and ritual meaning; each is attached to a Veda.

Aranyakas	Forest texts that move from external ritual toward symbolic and meditative interpretation.
Upanishads	Philosophical works on Brahman, Atman, karma, rebirth and moksha; Satyameva Jayate comes from Mundaka Upanishad.
Vedangas	Shiksha, Kalpa, Vyakarana, Nirukta, Chhanda and Jyotisha - auxiliaries for preserving and interpreting the Vedas.
Upavedas	Ayurveda-medicine; Dhanurveda-warfare; Gandharvaveda-music; Sthapatyaveda or Shilpa-architecture and crafts.
Sabha and Samiti	Popular assemblies in early Vedic society; Sabha was smaller and more select, while Samiti was broader.
Political change	Rajan was initially a tribal chief; later Vedic polity developed territorial janapadas, taxation and more hereditary kingship.
Social change	The early flexible varna distinctions hardened in the later Vedic period; patriarchy and ritual hierarchy increased.
Economy	Pastoralism dominated early; plough agriculture, crafts, trade and iron tools expanded later.
Rigvedic rivers	Indus-Sindhu; Jhelum-Vitasta; Chenab-Asikni; Ravi-Parushni; Beas-Vipasha; Sutlej-Shutudri.
Battle of Ten Kings	Rigvedic battle on the Parushni in which Sudas of the Bharatas defeated a confederacy of tribes.
Painted Grey Ware	Iron Age pottery associated with the upper Ganga-Yamuna region and often linked to later Vedic settlements.
Sixteen Mahajanapadas	Anga, Magadha, Kashi, Kosala, Vajji, Malla, Chedi, Vatsa, Kuru, Panchala, Matsya, Surasena, Assaka, Avanti, Gandhara and Kamboja.
Magadha's rise	Fertile land, iron resources, elephants, river communications and capable rulers favoured its expansion.
Haryanka dynasty	Bimbisara used conquest and marriage alliances; Ajatashatru defeated Kosala and the Vajji confederacy.
Shishunaga dynasty	Shishunaga ended Avanti's rivalry; the second Buddhist council occurred under Kalashoka.
Nanda dynasty	Mahapadma Nanda built a powerful state; Dhana Nanda was overthrown by Chandragupta Maurya.
Republican states	Vajji and Malla were gana-sanghas where power was exercised by assemblies of clan chiefs rather than a single hereditary monarch.

03. Buddhism and Jainism

Background	Sixth-century BCE movements challenged costly ritualism and stressed ethical conduct, renunciation and liberation.
Gautama Buddha	Born at Lumbini to Suddhodana and Maya; clan Sakya. Enlightened at Bodh Gaya, first sermon at Sarnath, died at Kushinagar.
Four Noble Truths	Suffering exists; craving causes it; cessation is possible; the Eightfold Path leads to cessation.
Eightfold Path	Right view, resolve, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness and concentration.
Middle Path	Rejects both sensual indulgence and extreme asceticism.
Buddhist Triratna	Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.
Tripitaka	Vinaya Pitaka-monastic discipline; Sutta Pitaka-discourses; Abhidhamma Pitaka-philosophical analysis.
First Buddhist Council	Rajagriha, patron Ajatashatru, chaired by Mahakassapa; teachings were recited after Buddha's death.
Second Buddhist Council	Vaishali, patron Kalashoka, associated with a dispute over monastic practices.
Third Buddhist Council	Pataliputra under Ashoka, chaired by Moggaliputta Tissa; linked with missionary activity.
Fourth Buddhist Council	Kashmir under Kanishka, traditionally chaired by Vasumitra; associated with Sarvastivada tradition.
Theravada/Hinayana	Stresses early teachings and individual arhat ideal; Pali canon is central to Theravada.
Mahayana	Bodhisattva ideal, wider devotional practice and Sanskrit texts; Buddha increasingly represented in human form.
Vajrayana	Tantric Buddhist tradition using mantras, mandalas and ritual practices; developed strongly in eastern India and Tibet.
Buddhist symbols	Lotus or bull-birth; horse-renunciation; Bodhi tree-enlightenment; wheel-first sermon; stupa-Mahaparinirvana.
Milindapanho	Dialogue between Indo-Greek king Menander (Milinda) and Buddhist monk Nagasena.
Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa	Sri Lankan Buddhist chronicles important for Mauryan and early Buddhist history.
Mahavira	Vardhamana, 24th Tirthankara; born at Kundagrama to Siddhartha and Trishala; attained nirvana at Pavapuri.
Jain Tirthankaras	Rishabhanatha was the first, Parshvanatha the 23rd and Mahavira the 24th.

Jain Triratna	Right faith, right knowledge and right conduct.
Five vows	Ahimsa, satya, asteya, aparigraha and brahmacharya; Mahavira added brahmacharya to Parshvanatha's four vows.
Anekantavada	Reality has many aspects; no single statement captures the whole truth.
Syadvada	Doctrine of conditional predication: a proposition is true from a particular standpoint.
Digambara	Sky-clad tradition; monks ideally renounce clothing; does not accept that women can attain liberation in a female body.
Shvetambara	White-clad tradition; accepts white robes and the possibility of women's liberation.
First Jain Council	Pataliputra, traditionally under Sthulabhadra; associated with compilation of teachings after a famine.
Second Jain Council	Vallabhi under Devardhigani Kshamashramana; Shvetambara canon was compiled in written form.
Symbols	Rishabhanatha-bull; Parshvanatha-serpent; Mahavira-lion.

ANCIENT INDIA

04. Mauryan Empire

Foundation	Chandragupta Maurya overthrew the Nandas around 322 BCE with the aid traditionally attributed to Chanakya/Kautilya.
Seleucus treaty	Chandragupta defeated Seleucus I Nicator; a treaty and marriage alliance followed, and Megasthenes came as ambassador.
Megasthenes	Greek envoy at Chandragupta's court; his Indica survives only in quotations by later authors.
Arthashastra	Treatise on statecraft, administration, economy and diplomacy attributed to Kautilya; its final form may include later layers.
Bindusara	Succeeded Chandragupta; Greek sources call him Amitrochates, derived from Amitraghata, 'slayer of foes'.
Ashoka	Third major Mauryan ruler; fought the Kalinga war in his eighth regnal year and then publicly emphasised Dhamma.
Kalinga war	Described in Major Rock Edict XIII; Ashoka expressed remorse over death, deportation and suffering.
Dhamma	Ethical policy promoting compassion, respect for elders, tolerance, non-violence and welfare; not identical to formal Buddhism.
Dhamma Mahamattas	Special officers appointed to advance welfare and Dhamma among different social and religious groups.
Inscriptions	Mostly Prakrit in Brahmi; Kharosthi in the north-west; Greek and Aramaic used in parts of Afghanistan.

James Prinsep	Deciphered Brahmi in 1837, enabling identification and reading of many Ashokan inscriptions.
Major Rock Edict I	Restricts animal slaughter and festive killing.
Major Rock Edict II	Provides for medical care for humans and animals, wells and medicinal plants.
Major Rock Edict IX	Criticises empty ceremonies and recommends Dhamma practices.
Major Rock Edict X	Rejects fame and glory unless they help spread Dhamma.
Major Rock Edict XI	Explains Dhamma as ethical conduct and generosity.
Major Rock Edict XIII	Kalinga war, remorse and the ideal of conquest by Dhamma.
Pillar Edict VII	A broad summary of Ashoka's Dhamma policy and welfare measures.
Titles	Devanampiya Piyadasi appears in inscriptions; Maski and Gujjarra inscriptions connect the title with the name Ashoka.
Sarnath Lion Capital	Four lions on an abacus with wheel and animals; adopted as India's State Emblem. The wheel appears on the national flag.
Administration	Central monarchy with provinces, districts and villages; officials included mahamattas, rajukas and yuktas.
Revenue	Land revenue was central; the state supervised trade, crafts, forests, mines and irrigation to varying degrees.
Army	Classical accounts describe large infantry, cavalry, chariot and elephant forces; a committee system is reported by Megasthenes.
Pataliputra	Imperial capital near the Ganga-Son confluence; Greek accounts describe a timber palisade and administrative importance.
Decline	Weak successors, fiscal and administrative strain, provincial pressures and regional assertion contributed; Brihadratha was killed by Pushyamitra Sunga.

ANCIENT INDIA

05. Guptas, Vakatakas and Harsha

Gupta rise	Sri Gupta and Ghatotkacha preceded Chandragupta I, who adopted the title Maharajadhiraja and married Kumaradevi.
Samudragupta	Military career described in the Prayaga Prashasti composed by Harisena; V. A. Smith called him the Napoleon of India.
Prayaga policy	Different treatment for Aryavarta rulers, southern kings, frontier states and forest chiefs shows flexible imperial control.
Chandragupta II	Vikramaditya; defeated Western Kshatrapas, expanded western trade and issued silver coins.
Fa-Hien	Chinese Buddhist pilgrim who travelled in India during Chandragupta II's reign and described society and Buddhist sites.

Kumaragupta I	Used the title Mahendraditya; Nalanda's early royal patronage is traditionally associated with him.
Skandagupta	Repelled Hun pressure and is linked with repair of Sudarshana lake in the Junagadh inscription.
Administration	Less centralised than the Mauryas; provinces were bhuktis, districts vishayas, and land grants strengthened local intermediaries.
Economy	Gold coinage and long-distance trade were important, while land grants to Brahmanas and institutions increased.
Religion	Vaishnavism received royal support, but Buddhism, Jainism and Shaivism also flourished.
Literature	Kalidasa, Vishakhadatta, Amarasimha and other Sanskrit authors are associated with the classical age.
Science	Aryabhata wrote Aryabhatiya; Varahamihira wrote Brihat Samhita; advances occurred in mathematics, astronomy and metallurgy.
Iron Pillar	Mehrauli pillar inscription praises a king Chandra, commonly identified with Chandragupta II; noted for corrosion resistance.
Ajanta	Many celebrated paintings and caves received Vakataka-age patronage, especially under Harishena.
Vakatakas	Deccan power allied with Guptas through Prabhavati Gupta, daughter of Chandragupta II.
Hunas	Toramana and Mihirakula established power in parts of north India; their invasions weakened existing kingdoms.
Harshavardhana	Pushyabhuti ruler, first at Thanesar and later Kannauj; ruled much of north India from c. 606-647 CE.
Banabhatta	Court author of Harshacharita and Kadambari.
Xuanzang	Chinese pilgrim at Harsha's court; described India and studied at Nalanda. His record is known as Si-Yu-Ki.
Harsha's works	Ratnavali, Priyadarsika and Nagananda are traditionally attributed to Harsha.
Pulakeshin II	Chalukya ruler who checked Harsha on the Narmada; praised by Ravikirti in the Aihole inscription.
Nalanda	Residential Buddhist university supported by Gupta, Harsha and Pala rulers; Xuanzang and Yijing studied there.

06. Early Invasions and Delhi Sultanate

Arab conquest of Sind	Muhammad bin Qasim defeated Dahir in 712 CE; Arab political expansion remained largely limited to Sind and Multan.
Mahmud of Ghazni	Raided north India repeatedly between 1000 and 1027; Al-Biruni accompanied the Ghaznavid world and wrote Kitab-ul-Hind.
Muhammad Ghori	Defeated by Prithviraj Chauhan at First Tarain (1191), then defeated him at Second Tarain (1192).
Chand Bardai	Court poet traditionally credited with Prithviraj Raso, though the extant text contains later additions.
Mamluk foundation	Qutb-ud-din Aibak established independent rule at Delhi in 1206; called Lakh Baksh for generosity.
Qutb Minar	Begun by Aibak and substantially completed by Iltutmish; later repaired by Firoz Shah Tughlaq.
Iltutmish	Consolidated the Sultanate, obtained caliphal investiture, organised iqta assignments and issued silver tanka and copper jital.
Chahalgani	Group of forty powerful Turkish nobles associated with Iltutmish; later curbed by Balban.
Razia	Iltutmish's daughter and the first and only woman to rule the Delhi Sultanate in her own right.
Balban	Strengthened monarchy through awe and court discipline; stressed blood and iron and crushed disorder.
Khalji revolution	Jalaluddin Khalji founded the dynasty in 1290, ending exclusive Turkish dominance of high office.
Alauddin Khalji	Expanded into Gujarat and Rajasthan and sent Malik Kafur to the Deccan; resisted repeated Mongol attacks.
Market controls	Alauddin fixed prices, regulated markets and maintained grain stores to support a large standing army at lower cost.
Military reforms	Dagh-branding of horses and chehra-descriptive rolls of soldiers strengthened army control.
Amir Khusrau	Poet-musician known as Tuti-i-Hind; served several Sultans and wrote works including Khazain-ul-Futuh and Tughlaqnama.
Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq	Founded the Tughlaq dynasty and built Tughlaqabad.
Muhammad bin Tughlaq	Known for capital transfer to Daulatabad, token currency experiment, taxation in the Doab and ambitious schemes.
Diwan-i-Kohi	Agricultural department created by Muhammad bin Tughlaq to promote cultivation.

Ibn Battuta	Moroccan traveller and qazi under Muhammad bin Tughlaq; wrote the Rihla.
Firoz Shah Tughlaq	Built canals and towns, maintained slaves, imposed jizya strictly and moved Ashokan pillars to Delhi.
Timur	Invaded and sacked Delhi in 1398 during the later Tughlaq period.
Sayyid dynasty	Founded by Khizr Khan after Timur's invasion; ruled as a weak regional line.
Lodi dynasty	Bahlul founded the first Afghan dynasty of Delhi; Sikandar founded Agra; Ibrahim fell at Panipat in 1526.
Iqta	Revenue assignment to an officer, who maintained troops and administration; it did not normally confer private ownership.
Sultanate departments	Diwan-i-Wizarat-finance; Diwan-i-Ariz-military; Diwan-i-Insha-correspondence; Diwan-i-Risalat-religious or foreign matters.
Architecture	Arches, domes and lime mortar combined with Indian craftsmanship; Quwwat-ul-Islam, Alai Darwaza and Tughlaqabad mark stylistic change.

MEDIEVAL INDIA

07. Mughal Empire

Babur	Timurid ruler who defeated Ibrahim Lodi at Panipat (1526), Rana Sanga at Khanwa (1527), Medini Rai at Chanderi (1528) and Afghan forces at Ghaghra (1529).
Baburnama	Babur's memoir in Chagatai Turkish, also called Tuzuk-i-Baburi; valued for candid observations.
Humayun	Built Dinpanah; defeated by Sher Shah at Chausa (1539) and Kannauj (1540), recovered Delhi in 1555.
Humayun-nama	Written by his half-sister Gulbadan Begum.
Sher Shah Suri	Efficient interregnum ruler; revenue measurement, road and sarai improvements, silver rupiya and administrative reform.
Akbar's accession	Bairam Khan served as regent; Mughal forces defeated Hemu at Second Panipat in 1556.
Expansion	Akbar annexed or subordinated Gujarat, Bengal, Kashmir, Sindh and parts of the Deccan; Haldighati (1576) involved Man Singh and Maharana Pratap.
Mansabdari	Rank system based on zat-personal rank/status and sawar-cavalry obligation; mansabdars were paid by cash or jagir.
Jagirdari	Revenue assignments used to pay officials; jagirs were transferable and did not normally grant proprietary rights.

Zabt and dahsala	Revenue assessment associated with Raja Todar Mal; average produce and prices over ten years informed cash rates in core areas.
Sulh-i-kul	Akbar's principle of universal peace and toleration in governance.
Ibadat Khana	House of Worship at Fatehpur Sikri for religious discussions; debates expanded beyond Muslim scholars.
Din-i Ilahi	An ethical discipleship order initiated by Akbar, not a mass religion; Birbal was among the few initiates.
Abul Fazl	Akbarnama narrates Akbar's reign; Ain-i-Akbari describes administration, economy and society.
Navaratna caution	The popular fixed list of Akbar's nine gems is a later convention; major court figures included Abul Fazl, Faizi, Tansen, Birbal, Todar Mal and Man Singh.
Jahangir	Wrote Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri; known for justice symbolism, natural history interest and Nur Jahan's influence.
European envoys	William Hawkins and Sir Thomas Roe visited Jahangir's court; Roe sought stable trading privileges for the English Company.
Shah Jahan	Period of architectural refinement; Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Peacock Throne.
Aurangzeb	Title Alamgir; won succession at Samugarh (1658), reimposed jizya in 1679 and spent decades in Deccan wars.
Mughal decline	Succession struggles, jagirdari pressure, Deccan warfare, regional assertion and invasions weakened imperial authority.
Nadir Shah	Defeated Muhammad Shah at Karnal in 1739 and carried away immense wealth including the Peacock Throne.
Persian literature	Persian was the court language; translation projects included Razmnama and Persian Ramayana under Akbar.
Mughal painting	Akbar developed an imperial atelier; Jahangir favoured portraiture and nature; Shah Jahan preferred formal splendour.
Architecture	Humayun's Tomb introduced mature garden-tomb features; Fatehpur Sikri, Taj Mahal and Red Fort mark major stages.
Travellers	Bernier and Tavernier visited in Shah Jahan-Aurangzeb era; Niccolao Manucci spent decades in Mughal India.

08. Colonial Administration, Economy and Constitutional Acts

Regulating Act 1773	First major parliamentary regulation; Governor-General of Bengal with council, Supreme Court at Calcutta and controls on Company servants.
Pitt's India Act 1784	Created Board of Control and a system of dual control with the Court of Directors.
Charter Act 1793	Renewed Company charter and continued its trade monopoly and administrative arrangements.
Charter Act 1813	Ended trade monopoly except tea and China trade; allowed missionaries and provided an education grant.
Charter Act 1833	Made Governor-General of Bengal the Governor-General of India; William Bentinck first; ended Company commercial functions.
Charter Act 1853	Separated legislative and executive work of the Governor-General's Council and opened the way for competitive civil service recruitment.
Government of India Act 1858	Transferred rule from Company to Crown; Secretary of State for India and Council replaced Company control.
Indian Councils Act 1861	Introduced portfolio system recognition and limited legislative nomination; began legislative decentralisation.
Indian Councils Act 1892	Expanded councils and permitted indirect election in practice, budget discussion and questions.
Morley-Minto reforms 1909	Expanded councils and introduced separate electorates for Muslims.
Montagu-Chelmsford reforms 1919	Dyarchy in provinces, bicameral central legislature and expanded separate representation.
Government of India Act 1935	Provincial autonomy, proposed federation, three legislative lists, Federal Court and extended franchise.
Indian Independence Act 1947	Created India and Pakistan as Dominions, ended British suzerainty and gave constituent assemblies legislative authority.
Permanent Settlement	Cornwallis, 1793, Bengal-Bihar-Orissa; zamindars recognised as revenue collectors/proprietors with fixed state demand.
Ryotwari	Settlement directly with cultivators; associated with Thomas Munro and Alexander Read in Madras and later Bombay.
Mahalwari	Revenue settlement with village estates or mahals; associated with Holt Mackenzie and R. M. Bird in north-western India.
Commercialisation	Cultivation increasingly responded to market and export demand for indigo, cotton, opium, jute and tea, often increasing peasant risk.
Drain theory	Dadabhai Naoroji argued that unrequited transfer of wealth to Britain impoverished India; set out in Poverty and Un-British Rule in India.

Deindustrialisation	Colonial trade, tariff and market changes weakened many handicrafts, though regional patterns varied.
Railways	First passenger train ran Bombay-Thane in 1853 under Dalhousie; railways integrated markets and served strategic-colonial interests.
Telegraph and post	Dalhousie promoted electric telegraph and postal reform; these aided administration and later nationalist communication.
Modern education	Macaulay Minute and Bentinck's 1835 decision supported English education; Wood's Despatch 1854 outlined a graded system.
Universities	Universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras founded in 1857; initially affiliating and examining institutions.
Hunter Commission	1882 education commission under William Hunter, with emphasis on primary and secondary education.
Ilbert Bill	Ripon-era 1883 controversy over Indian judges trying European British subjects; racial opposition forced compromise.
Factory Acts	Early laws in 1881 and 1891 modestly regulated child and women's labour; enforcement remained limited.

MODERN INDIA

09. Governors-General and Viceroy

Robert Clive	First Governor of Bengal in the Company's new political era; associated with Plassey and Dual Government.
Warren Hastings	First Governor-General of Bengal under 1773 Act; ended Dual Government, reformed revenue and faced impeachment after return.
Cornwallis	Permanent Settlement, Cornwallis Code and civil-service reforms; Third Anglo-Mysore War.
Wellesley	Subsidiary Alliance and aggressive expansion; Fort William College founded in 1800.
William Bentinck	First Governor-General of India under 1833 Act; abolished sati, suppressed thuggee and supported English education.
Charles Metcalfe	Acting Governor-General remembered as Liberator of the Indian Press for the 1835 press law.
Dalhousie	Doctrine of Lapse, Awadh annexation, railways, telegraph, postal reform and Public Works expansion.
Canning	Governor-General during 1857 and first Viceroy after 1858; universities and Indian Councils Act 1861 in his era.
Lawrence	Viceroy during Bhutan War; High Courts were already established in 1862, before his tenure.
Mayo	Financial decentralisation, first all-India census attempt in 1872 and Statistical Survey; assassinated in Andamans.

Lytton	Vernacular Press Act and Arms Act 1878; Second Afghan War; Delhi Durbar during famine.
Ripon	Local self-government resolution 1882, repeal of Vernacular Press Act, first Factory Act and Ilbert Bill controversy.
Dufferin	Indian National Congress founded in 1885 during his viceroyalty; Third Anglo-Burmese War.
Lansdowne	Indian Councils Act 1892 and Age of Consent Act 1891; Durand Line agreement.
Curzon	Partition of Bengal, Universities Act 1904, Ancient Monuments Preservation Act and administrative centralisation.
Minto II	Morley-Minto reforms and separate electorates; Swadeshi-era revolutionary activity.
Hardinge II	Capital shifted from Calcutta to Delhi in 1911; Bengal partition annulled; Delhi Durbar.
Chelmsford	Rowlatt Act, Jallianwala Bagh, Montagu-Chelmsford reforms and beginning of Non-Cooperation.
Reading	Chauri Chaura, withdrawal of Non-Cooperation and formation of Swaraj Party.
Irwin	Simon Commission protests, Lahore Congress, Dandi March, Gandhi-Irwin Pact and First Round Table Conference.
Willingdon	Second and Third Round Table Conferences, Communal Award, Poona Pact and repression of Civil Disobedience.
Linlithgow	Longest-serving Viceroy; provincial ministries resigned in 1939, August Offer, Cripps Mission and Quit India.
Wavell	Wavell Plan, Simla Conference, INA trials, Cabinet Mission and 1946 interim government.
Mountbatten	Last Viceroy and first Governor-General of independent India; 3 June Plan and transfer of power.
C. Rajagopalachari	Last and only Indian Governor-General of India, 1948-1950.

MODERN INDIA

10. Revolt of 1857

Nature	A broad but uneven anti-colonial uprising involving sepoys, dispossessed rulers, taluqdars, peasants and townspeople; not nationwide.
Immediate trigger	Enfield rifle cartridges rumoured to be greased with cow and pig fat offended Hindu and Muslim sepoys.
Long-term causes	Annexations, army discrimination, revenue pressure, dispossession, social-religious fears and erosion of traditional authority.

Mangal Pandey	Attacked officers at Barrackpore on 29 March 1857 and was executed on 8 April.
Outbreak	Sepoys at Meerut revolted on 10 May 1857, marched to Delhi and proclaimed Bahadur Shah II as symbolic emperor.
Delhi	Bahadur Shah II-symbolic leader; Bakht Khan arrived from Bareilly and led rebel military administration.
Kanpur	Nana Sahib led the revolt with Tantia Tope and Azimullah Khan; British forces under Havelock and Campbell retook the city.
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal led resistance and declared Birjis Qadr ruler; British relief and reconquest involved Havelock, Outram and Campbell.
Jhansi	Rani Lakshmibai led resistance; Hugh Rose captured Jhansi. She died fighting near Gwalior in June 1858.
Bihar	Kunwar Singh of Jagdishpur, joined by Amar Singh, led a mobile campaign despite advanced age.
Bareilly	Khan Bahadur Khan led the revolt; Campbell's forces restored British control.
Faizabad	Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah was a prominent organiser and military leader in Awadh.
Why it failed	Limited geography, no unified command or programme, uneven resources, weak coordination and support to British from several rulers and groups.
Aftermath	Company rule ended, army reorganised, princes reassured, annexation policy moderated and divide-and-rule hardened.
Queen's Proclamation	1858 promised non-interference in religion, equal legal protection and respect for princely treaties, though practice remained discriminatory.
Interpretations	V. D. Savarkar called it the First War of Indian Independence; British writers called it a sepoy mutiny; modern scholarship stresses its multiple regional character.

MODERN INDIA

11. Socio-Religious Reform and New Public Life

Raja Rammohan Roy	Founded Atmiya Sabha and Brahmo Sabha; campaigned against sati and for monotheism, press freedom and modern education.
Brahmo Samaj	Founded in 1828; opposed idolatry and caste rigidity and promoted monotheistic worship and social reform.
Debendranath Tagore	Led Tattvabodhini Sabha and revitalised Brahmo Samaj.
Keshab Chandra Sen	Led a younger Brahmo wing; later formed Brahmo Samaj of India in 1866.

Prarthana Samaj	Founded by Atmaram Pandurang in Bombay in 1867; M. G. Ranade and R. G. Bhandarkar were major leaders.
Arya Samaj	Founded by Dayanand Saraswati in 1875; 'Back to the Vedas', shuddhi, education and social reform.
Satyarth Prakash	Dayanand Saraswati's principal work.
Ramakrishna Mission	Founded by Swami Vivekananda in 1897; combined Vedanta with organised social service.
Vivekananda	Addressed the 1893 Parliament of Religions in Chicago; promoted practical Vedanta and national regeneration.
Young Bengal	Henry Vivian Derozio and students at Hindu College advocated free thought and attacked social orthodoxy.
Widow remarriage	Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's campaign helped secure Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act 1856.
Satyashodhak Samaj	Founded by Jyotirao Phule in 1873 against caste domination; Savitribai Phule pioneered girls' education.
Aligarh movement	Sir Syed Ahmad Khan promoted modern Muslim education; Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College founded at Aligarh in 1875.
Deoband	Darul Uloom founded in 1866 by Muhammad Qasim Nanautavi and Rashid Ahmad Gangohi; emphasised Islamic learning.
Theosophical Society	Founded in New York by Helena Blavatsky and Henry Olcott; headquarters moved to Adyar; Annie Besant led it in India.
SNDP movement	Sree Narayana Guru challenged caste inequality in Kerala; message commonly rendered as one caste, one religion, one God for humanity.
Self-Respect Movement	Founded by E. V. Ramasamy Periyar in 1925; opposed caste, patriarchy and Brahmanical dominance.
Singh Sabha	Sikh reform movement beginning at Amritsar in 1873; promoted education and distinct Sikh identity.
Parsi reform	Rahnumai Mazdayasnan Sabha founded in Bombay in 1851; Dadabhai Naoroji and others supported reform.
Age of Consent	1891 Act raised the age of consent for girls; the debate exposed tension between reform and colonial intervention.

MODERN INDIA

12. Early Nationalism, Swadeshi and Home Rule

Pre-Congress bodies	Landholders' Society, British Indian Association, East India Association, Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, Indian Association and Madras Mahajana Sabha built political networks.
Indian National Congress	First session at Bombay in December 1885; W. C. Bonnerjee president; A. O. Hume an important organiser.

Moderates	Leaders including Dadabhai Naoroji, Pherozeshah Mehta and Gopal Krishna Gokhale used petitions, debate and constitutional pressure.
Economic critique	Drain theory, critique of land revenue, military spending and discriminatory tariffs gave nationalism an economic foundation.
Extremists	Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai advocated swaraj, boycott, swadeshi and passive resistance.
Partition of Bengal	Curzon divided Bengal in 1905; officially administrative, widely seen as divide-and-rule. Annulled in 1911.
Swadeshi movement	Boycott of foreign goods, promotion of indigenous industry, national education and mass mobilisation.
Surat split	1907 Congress split between Moderates and Extremists over methods and leadership; reunited at Lucknow in 1916.
Muslim League	Founded at Dhaka in 1906; initially loyalist and elite, later central to separate Muslim political demands.
Morley-Minto reforms	Separate electorates institutionalised communal representation in 1909.
Ghadar Party	Founded in San Francisco in 1913; president Sohan Singh Bhakna, associated with Lala Hardayal; sought armed revolt.
Komagata Maru	1914 ship carrying Indian migrants was denied entry to Canada; return to Budge Budge led to violence.
Tilak Home Rule League	Founded April 1916, active mainly in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Central Provinces and Berar.
Besant Home Rule League	Founded September 1916 with wider all-India branches; demanded self-government within the Empire.
Lucknow session	Congress reunion and Congress-League Pact in 1916; Congress accepted separate electorates.
August Declaration	Montagu's 1917 statement promised gradual development of responsible government in India.
INC firsts	First president-W. C. Bonnerjee; first Muslim-Badraddin Tyabji; first Englishman-George Yule; first woman-Annie Besant; first Indian woman-Sarojini Naidu.

MODERN INDIA

13. Gandhian Era, 1917-1934

Gandhi in India	Returned from South Africa in 1915; Gopal Krishna Gokhale was his political mentor.
Champaran	1917 movement against indigo tinkathia system; Gandhi's first major satyagraha in India.
Ahmedabad strike	1918 mill dispute over plague bonus; Gandhi undertook a fast during arbitration.

Kheda	1918 no-revenue campaign after crop failure; Vallabhbhai Patel was a key organiser.
Rowlatt Act	1919 allowed detention without trial and special procedures; nationwide satyagraha opposed the Black Act.
Jallianwala Bagh	13 April 1919; Brigadier-General Dyer ordered firing on an unarmed crowd. Hunter Committee investigated.
Khilafat	Ali brothers and other leaders mobilised over Ottoman Caliphate; Gandhi linked it with Non-Cooperation.
Non-Cooperation	1920 programme of surrendering titles, boycotting institutions and promoting khadi; reached broad social groups.
Chauri Chaura	5 February 1922 violence in Gorakhpur district; Gandhi withdrew Non-Cooperation.
Swaraj Party	C. R. Das and Motilal Nehru formed it in 1923 to enter legislatures and obstruct colonial governance.
Simon Commission	All-British commission appointed 1927 and arrived 1928; greeted with 'Simon Go Back'. Lajpat Rai was injured in Lahore protest.
Nehru Report	1928, chaired by Motilal Nehru; proposed dominion status, responsible government and joint electorates with safeguards.
Lahore Congress	1929 under Jawaharlal Nehru adopted Purna Swaraj; 26 January 1930 observed as Independence Day.
Dandi March	Gandhi marched from Sabarmati on 12 March and broke salt law at Dandi on 6 April 1930.
Civil Disobedience	Salt law violation, no-tax campaigns, forest-law defiance and boycott; women participated on a large scale.
First Round Table Conference	1930-31; Congress absent; princely states and various political groups attended in London.
Gandhi-Irwin Pact	March 1931: Congress suspended movement; government released non-violent political prisoners and permitted limited salt manufacture.
Second Round Table Conference	1931; Gandhi attended as Congress's sole representative; no agreement on constitutional and communal issues.
Communal Award	Ramsay MacDonald, 1932; separate electorates including for Depressed Classes.
Poona Pact	September 1932 agreement between Gandhi and Ambedkar: reserved seats for Depressed Classes in joint electorates.
Third Round Table Conference	1932; Congress absent; discussions fed into later constitutional proposals.
Participants in all RTCs	B. R. Ambedkar and Tej Bahadur Sapru attended all three Round Table Conferences.

14. Revolutionaries, Mass Movements and Independence

Anushilan and Jugantar	Bengal revolutionary groups that used physical culture, secret organisation and political violence.
Abhinav Bharat	Founded by V. D. Savarkar and associates; revolutionary network in India and abroad.
Kakori action	1925 train treasury seizure by Hindustan Republican Association; Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan and others were tried.
HSRA	Hindustan Socialist Republican Association formed in 1928; associated with Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad and comrades.
Saunders case	Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and associates killed J. P. Saunders in 1928 while targeting Scott in retaliation for Lajpat Rai's death.
Assembly bomb case	Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw non-lethal bombs in Central Legislative Assembly in 1929 and courted arrest.
Chittagong armoury raid	1930 action led by Surya Sen to seize arms and disrupt communications; women including Pritilata Waddadar participated in later actions.
Congress Socialists	Congress Socialist Party founded in 1934; leaders included Acharya Narendra Dev, Jayaprakash Narayan and Ram Manohar Lohia.
Provincial ministries	Congress formed ministries in several provinces after 1937 elections and resigned in 1939 over India's entry into war.
Forward Bloc	Subhas Chandra Bose formed it in 1939 after conflict with Congress leadership following Tripuri session.
August Offer	1940 promised post-war constitution-making and expanded Viceroy's Council; rejected by Congress.
Individual Satyagraha	Launched in 1940 to affirm free speech against war participation; Vinoba Bhave first, Jawaharlal Nehru second.
Cripps Mission	1942 offered dominion status and a post-war constituent assembly with provincial opt-out; failed over immediate power and unity issues.
Quit India	Resolution passed 8 August 1942 at Gowalia Tank, Bombay; Gandhi gave 'Do or Die'; leaders arrested immediately.
Parallel governments	Ballia under Chittu Pandey; Tamluk's Tamralipta Jatiya Sarkar in Bengal; Prati Sarkar in Satara under Nana Patil.
INA origins	Mohan Singh formed the first INA from Indian prisoners in Southeast Asia; Rash Behari Bose facilitated the movement.
Subhas Bose	Took command in 1943, proclaimed Azad Hind Government and gave calls including Delhi Chalo and Give me blood, and I will give you freedom.

INA campaigns	Fought with Japanese forces on Imphal-Kohima front; military defeat followed, but Red Fort trials generated mass sympathy.
Royal Indian Navy uprising	February 1946 began on HMIS Talwar in Bombay and spread; ratings protested conditions and colonial rule.
Wavell Plan	1945 proposed reconstituted Executive Council with parity between caste Hindus and Muslims; Simla Conference failed.
Cabinet Mission	1946 proposed a three-tier Union with limited central subjects and provincial groups; rejected the demand for a sovereign Pakistan at that stage.
Direct Action Day	Muslim League call on 16 August 1946 preceded severe communal violence in Calcutta and elsewhere.
Interim government	Formed under Jawaharlal Nehru in September 1946; Muslim League joined later.
Constituent Assembly	First met on 9 December 1946; Sachchidananda Sinha temporary chair, Rajendra Prasad permanent president.
Mountbatten Plan	3 June 1947 accepted partition and rapid transfer of power.
Independence	Indian Independence Act received assent 18 July 1947; Pakistan and India became independent Dominions in August.
Integration	Sardar Patel and V. P. Menon led accession of princely states; Junagadh, Hyderabad and Kashmir required special handling.



Books and Authors - Ancient and Medieval

Work	Author / Association
Ashtadhyayi	Panini
Mahabhashya	Patanjali
Buddhacharita	Ashvaghosha
Indica	Megasthenes
Charaka Samhita	Charaka
Sushruta Samhita	Sushruta
Kamasutra	Vatsyayana
Panchatantra	Vishnu Sharma
Abhijnanashakuntalam	Kalidasa
Meghaduta	Kalidasa
Kumarasambhava	Kalidasa
Raghuvamsha	Kalidasa
Malavikagnimitra	Kalidasa
Mudrarakshasa	Vishakhadatta
Harshacharita	Banabhatta
Kadambari	Banabhatta
Ratnavali / Priyadarsika / Nagananda	Harshavardhana
Gita Govinda	Jayadeva
Rajatarangini	Kalhana
Prithviraj Raso	Traditionally Chand Bardai
Kitab-ul-Hind / Tahqiq-i-Hind	Al-Biruni
Rihla	Ibn Battuta
Tabaqat-i-Nasiri	Minhaj-us-Siraj
Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi	Ziauddin Barani
Padmavat	Malik Muhammad Jayasi
Baburnama / Tuzuk-i-Baburi	Babur
Akbarnama / Ain-i-Akbari	Abul Fazl
Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri	Jahangir
Shahnameh	Firdausi

Work	Author / Association
Amuktamalyada	Krishnadevaraya
Kavirajamarga	Amoghavarsha

Books by Modern Indian Leaders

Author	Important Works
M. K. Gandhi	The Story of My Experiments with Truth; Hind Swaraj
Jawaharlal Nehru	The Discovery of India; Glimpses of World History; An Autobiography
Subhas Chandra Bose	The Indian Struggle
B. R. Ambedkar	Annihilation of Caste; The Problem of the Rupee
Rajendra Prasad	India Divided; At the Feet of Mahatma Gandhi
Dadabhai Naoroji	Poverty and Un-British Rule in India
Bal Gangadhar Tilak	Gita Rahasya; The Arctic Home in the Vedas
Lala Lajpat Rai	Unhappy India
S. Radhakrishnan	Indian Philosophy; The Hindu View of Life
Rabindranath Tagore	Gitanjali; Gora; The Gardener; The Hungry Stones
Sarojini Naidu	The Golden Threshold; The Broken Wing; The Feather of the Dawn
Indira Gandhi	My Truth
V. D. Savarkar	The Indian War of Independence, 1857
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad	India Wins Freedom

Foreign Travellers to India

Traveller	Exam Anchor
Xuanzang / Hiuen Tsang	Chinese pilgrim during Harsha; studied at Nalanda; Si-Yu-Ki
Yijing / I-Tsing	Chinese Buddhist pilgrim; Nalanda and monastic practices
Al-Biruni	Came in Ghaznavid era; Kitab-ul-Hind
Marco Polo	European traveller who described south India and the Pandya region
Niccolo Conti	Italian visitor to Vijayanagara in the Deva Raya I era
Abdur Razzaq	Persian envoy who visited Vijayanagara under Deva Raya II
Domingo Paes	Portuguese visitor during Krishnadevaraya
Fernao Nuniz	Portuguese chronicler of Vijayanagara

Traveller	Exam Anchor
William Hawkins	English Company representative at Jahangir's court
Sir Thomas Roe	English ambassador at Jahangir's court
Francois Bernier	French physician-traveller in Mughal India under Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb
Jean-Baptiste Tavernier	French merchant-traveller in seventeenth-century Mughal India
Niccolao Manucci	Italian traveller and writer in later Mughal India

Dynasties and Founders

Dynasty / State	Founder / First Major Ruler
Haryanka	Bimbisara
Nanda	Mahapadma Nanda
Maurya	Chandragupta Maurya
Sunga	Pushyamitra Sunga
Satavahana	Simuka
Gupta	Sri Gupta; Chandragupta I was first imperial ruler
Vakataka	Vindhyashakti
Pushyabhuti / Vardhana	Pushyabhuti; Prabhakaravardhana built major power
Badami Chalukya	Pulakeshin I
Pala	Gopala
Rashtrakuta	Dantidurga
Imperial Chola	Vijayalaya
Mamluk / Slave	Qutb-ud-din Aibak
Khalji	Jalaluddin Khalji
Tughlaq	Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
Sayyid	Khizr Khan
Lodi	Bahlul Lodi
Vijayanagara	Harihara I and Bukka I
Bahmani	Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah
Mughal	Babur
Suri	Sher Shah Suri
Maratha kingdom	Shivaji

Dynasty / State	Founder / First Major Ruler
Hyderabad Asaf Jahi	Nizam-ul-Mulk Asaf Jah

High-Yield Battles

Battle and Year	Result / Importance
Hydaspes, 326 BCE	Alexander defeated Porus; Porus was restored as subordinate ruler
First Tarain, 1191	Prithviraj Chauhan defeated Muhammad Ghori
Second Tarain, 1192	Muhammad Ghori defeated Prithviraj; opened path to Turkish rule
First Panipat, 1526	Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi
Khanwa, 1527	Babur defeated Rana Sanga
Chanderi, 1528	Babur defeated Medini Rai
Ghaghra, 1529	Babur defeated Afghan forces led by Mahmud Lodi
Chausa, 1539	Sher Shah defeated Humayun
Kannauj / Bilgram, 1540	Sher Shah again defeated Humayun
Second Panipat, 1556	Akbar's forces under Bairam Khan defeated Hemu
Haldighati, 1576	Mughal army under Man Singh fought Maharana Pratap; no capture of Pratap
Samugarh, 1658	Aurangzeb defeated Dara Shikoh in Mughal succession war
Plassey, 1757	Company defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah through battle and conspiracy
Third Panipat, 1761	Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated Marathas
Buxar, 1764	Company defeated Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam II
Wandiwash, 1760	British defeated French; decisive in Carnatic rivalry
Seringapatam, 1799	Tipu Sultan killed; Mysore power broken in Fourth Anglo-Mysore War
Assaye, 1803	Company victory over Maratha forces in Second Anglo-Maratha War
Miani, 1843	Charles Napier defeated Talpur forces; Sind annexed
Gujrat, 1849	Company victory in Second Anglo-Sikh War; Punjab annexed

Monuments and Builders

Monument	Builder / Period
Sanchi Great Stupa	Ashoka; enlarged in Sunga-Satavahana periods
Kailasa, Ellora	Rashtrakuta Krishna I
Shore Temple	Pallava Narasimhavarman II Rajasimha
Brihadisvara, Thanjavur	Chola Rajaraja I
Gangaikondacholisvaram	Chola Rajendra I
Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque	Qutb-ud-din Aibak; enlarged by successors
Adhai Din ka Jhonpra	Converted/commissioned under Aibak; expanded by Iltutmish
Alai Darwaza	Alauddin Khalji
Tughlaqabad	Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
Vijaya Stambha	Rana Kumbha at Chittor
Purana Qila	Humayun and Sher Shah Suri phases
Humayun's Tomb	Commissioned by Haji Begum / Bega Begum
Fatehpur Sikri	Akbar
Buland Darwaza	Akbar, commemorating Gujarat victory
Agra Fort	Major reconstruction under Akbar
Taj Mahal	Shah Jahan
Red Fort, Delhi	Shah Jahan
Jama Masjid, Delhi	Shah Jahan
Moti Masjid, Agra Fort	Shah Jahan
Bibi ka Maqbara	Commissioned by Azam Shah for Dilras Banu Begum in Aurangzeb's reign
Gol Gumbaz	Muhammad Adil Shah, Bijapur

Important Congress Sessions

Session	President / Importance
Bombay, 1885	W. C. Bonnerjee; first session
Calcutta, 1886	Dadabhai Naoroji; wider national participation
Madras, 1887	Badruddin Tyabji; first Muslim president
Allahabad, 1888	George Yule; first English president
Calcutta, 1896	Rahimtulla M. Sayani; Vande Mataram sung

Session	President / Importance
Banaras, 1905	Gopal Krishna Gokhale; Swadeshi debate
Surat, 1907	Rash Behari Ghosh; Moderate-Extremist split
Calcutta, 1911	Bishan Narayan Dhar; Jana Gana Mana first sung publicly at Congress
Lucknow, 1916	Ambica Charan Mazumdar; reunion and Lucknow Pact
Calcutta, 1917	Annie Besant; first woman president
Belgaum, 1924	M. K. Gandhi; only Congress session he presided over
Kanpur, 1925	Sarojini Naidu; first Indian woman president
Madras, 1927	M. A. Ansari; boycott of Simon Commission
Calcutta, 1928	Motilal Nehru; dominion-status ultimatum
Lahore, 1929	Jawaharlal Nehru; Purna Swaraj
Karachi, 1931	Vallabhbhai Patel; Fundamental Rights and National Economic Programme
Haripura, 1938	Subhas Chandra Bose
Tripuri, 1939	Subhas Chandra Bose re-elected, later resigned; Rajendra Prasad succeeded
Meerut, 1946	J. B. Kripalani; last session before independence
Jaipur, 1948	Pattabhi Sitaramayya; first session after independence

Organisations and Founders

Organisation	Founder / Key Association
Atmiya Sabha	Raja Rammohan Roy
Tattvabodhini Sabha	Debendranath Tagore
Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College	Sir Syed Ahmad Khan
Deccan Education Society	Tilak, Agarkar and associates
Servants of India Society	Gopal Krishna Gokhale
Home Rule Leagues	Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant, separate leagues
Hindu Mahasabha	Formed through Hindu Sabha networks; Madan Mohan Malaviya a key early leader
Naujawan Bharat Sabha	Bhagat Singh and associates
Hindustan Republican Association	Sachindranath Sanyal, Ram Prasad Bismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee and others
Indian National Army	First formed under Mohan Singh; later led by Subhas Chandra Bose

Organisation	Founder / Key Association
Banaras Hindu University	Madan Mohan Malaviya; Annie Besant's Central Hindu College contributed
Visva-Bharati	Rabindranath Tagore

Newspapers and Journals

Publication	Founder / Editor Association
Bengal Gazette	James Augustus Hicky
Sambad Kaumudi	Raja Rammohan Roy
Mirat-ul-Akhbar	Raja Rammohan Roy
Hindu Patriot	Harish Chandra Mukherjee
Amrita Bazar Patrika	Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh
The Hindu	G. Subramania Iyer and associates
Kesari	Bal Gangadhar Tilak; Marathi
Mahratta	Bal Gangadhar Tilak; English
Sudhakar	Gopal Ganesh Agarkar
The Bengalee	Surendranath Banerjee
The Tribune	Dyal Singh Majithia
Voice of India	Dadabhai Naoroji
Bande Mataram	Aurobindo Ghose; associated with nationalist journalism
Bombay Chronicle	Pherozeshah Mehta
New India	Annie Besant
Commonweal	Annie Besant
Young India	M. K. Gandhi
Navjivan	M. K. Gandhi
Harijan	M. K. Gandhi
Indian Opinion	M. K. Gandhi in South Africa
The Independent	Motilal Nehru
The Leader	Madan Mohan Malaviya
Mooknayak	B. R. Ambedkar
Bahishkrit Bharat	B. R. Ambedkar
National Herald	Jawaharlal Nehru

Publication	Founder / Editor Association
Free Hindustan	Tarakanath Das

Slogans and Patriotic Works

Expression / Work	Association
Vande Mataram	Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay; in Anandamath
Sare Jahan Se Achha	Muhammad Iqbal
Ekla Chalo Re	Rabindranath Tagore
Sarfarooshi ki Tamanna	Bismil Azimabadi; popularised by revolutionaries
Inquilab Zindabad	Coined by Hasrat Mohani; popularised by Bhagat Singh
Swaraj is my birthright	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
Do or Die	M. K. Gandhi, Quit India
Delhi Chalo	Subhas Chandra Bose / INA
Give me blood and I will give you freedom	Subhas Chandra Bose
Jai Hind	Popularised by the INA and Subhas Chandra Bose; coined in INA context by Abid Hasan Safrani
Back to the Vedas	Common summary of Dayanand Saraswati's message
Jai Jawan Jai Kisan	Lal Bahadur Shastri
Jai Jawan Jai Kisan Jai Vigyan	Atal Bihari Vajpayee
Aaram Haram Hai	Jawaharlal Nehru
One caste, one religion, one God for humanity	Sree Narayana Guru

Popular Titles and Nicknames

Title	Person
Frontier Gandhi / Badshah Khan	Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan
Deshbandhu	Chittaranjan Das
Deenbandhu	C. F. Andrews
Grand Old Man of India	Dadabhai Naoroji
Gurudev	Rabindranath Tagore
Lokmanya	Bal Gangadhar Tilak
Mahamana	Madan Mohan Malaviya

Title	Person
Punjab Kesari / Lion of Punjab	Lala Lajpat Rai
Nightingale of India	Sarojini Naidu
Iron Man of India	Vallabhbhai Patel
Loknayak	Jayaprakash Narayan
Netaji	Subhas Chandra Bose
Tuti-i-Hind / Parrot of India	Amir Khusrau
Liberator of the Indian Press	Charles Metcalfe
Father of Indian Unrest	Bal Gangadhar Tilak; phrase used by Valentine Chirol
Indian Napoleon	Samudragupta; description by V. A. Smith
Tiger of Mysore	Tipu Sultan
Andhra Kesari	T. Prakasam
Sher-e-Punjab	Maharaja Ranjit Singh

Court Poets and Patrons

Writer / Poet	Royal Association
Kalidasa	Traditionally associated with Chandragupta II Vikramaditya
Bhavabhuti	Associated with Yashovarman of Kannauj
Ravikirti	Pulakeshin II; composed Aihole inscription
Harisena	Samudragupta; composed Prayaga Prashasti
Faizi	Akbar
Allasani Peddana	Krishnadevaraya

1857 Centres, Leaders and British Campaigns

Centre and Rebel Leadership	British Campaign Figure(s)
Delhi - Bahadur Shah II; Bakht Khan	John Nicholson, Archdale Wilson and later Colin Campbell operations
Kanpur - Nana Sahib; Tantia Tope	Henry Havelock and Colin Campbell
Lucknow - Begum Hazrat Mahal; Birjis Qadr; Maulvi Ahmadullah	Henry Havelock, James Outram and Colin Campbell
Jhansi / Gwalior - Rani Lakshmibai; Tantia Tope	Hugh Rose
Bihar - Kunwar Singh; Amar Singh	William Taylor and Vincent Eyre
Bareilly - Khan Bahadur Khan	Colin Campbell

Centre and Rebel Leadership	British Campaign Figure(s)
Faizabad - Maulvi Ahmadullah Shah	Killed after betrayal by the Raja of Powayan
Allahabad - Liaquat Ali	Colonel James Neill

British Prime Ministers - Indian History Links

Prime Minister	High-Yield India Link
David Lloyd George	Government of India Act 1919 era
Stanley Baldwin	Simon Commission appointed in 1927 during his ministry
Ramsay MacDonald	Communal Award, 1932
Neville Chamberlain	India entered World War II in 1939 without consulting elected Indian leaders
Winston Churchill	Cripps Mission and Quit India occurred during his wartime premiership
Clement Attlee	Announced decision to transfer power; Indian Independence Act under his government

First Cabinet of Independent India - 15 August 1947

Member	Portfolio
Jawaharlal Nehru	Prime Minister; External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations; Scientific Research
Vallabhbhai Patel	Home; Information and Broadcasting; States
Rajendra Prasad	Food and Agriculture
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad	Education
John Matthai	Railways and Transport
Baldev Singh	Defence
Jagjivan Ram	Labour
C. H. Bhabha	Commerce
Rafi Ahmed Kidwai	Communications
Rajkumari Amrit Kaur	Health
B. R. Ambedkar	Law
R. K. Shanmukham Chetty	Finance
Syama Prasad Mookerjee	Industries and Supplies
N. V. Gadgil	Works, Mines and Power

Ashokan Major Rock Edicts - Rapid Recall

Edict	Principal Theme
Major Rock Edict I	Restriction on animal slaughter and festive killing
Major Rock Edict II	Medical care for humans and animals; wells and medicinal plants
Major Rock Edict III	Administrative tours and instruction in Dhamma
Major Rock Edict IV	Growth of Dhamma and decline of violence
Major Rock Edict V	Appointment and duties of Dhamma Mahamatras
Major Rock Edict VI	Accessible administration and constant reporting to the king
Major Rock Edict VII	Religious coexistence and self-control
Major Rock Edict VIII	Dhamma-yatras replacing pleasure tours
Major Rock Edict IX	Dhamma conduct valued above empty ceremonies
Major Rock Edict X	True glory lies in spreading Dhamma, not fame
Major Rock Edict XI	Dhamma as the highest gift
Major Rock Edict XII	Tolerance and restraint among religious sects
Major Rock Edict XIII	Kalinga war, remorse and Dhamma-vijaya
Major Rock Edict XIV	Summary explaining the varied form and distribution of edicts

Land-Revenue Systems and Colonial Instruments

System / Instrument	Association
Permanent Settlement, 1793	Cornwallis; zamindars recognised as revenue collectors/proprietors in Bengal
Ryotwari system	Developed by Alexander Read and Thomas Munro; settlement directly with cultivators
Mahalwari system	Holt Mackenzie, 1822; village or mahal as revenue unit; later revised under R. M. Bird
Subsidiary Alliance	Wellesley; Indian ruler accepted Company troops and restrictions on external affairs
Doctrine of Lapse	Dalhousie; adopted heirs not accepted for succession to dependent states
Satara, Jhansi and Nagpur	Prominent states annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse

Round Table Conferences

Conference	Exam Facts
First RTC, Nov 1930-Jan 1931	Congress absent; princely states and several political groups participated
Second RTC, Sep-Dec 1931	Gandhi attended as sole Congress representative after Gandhi-Irwin Pact
Third RTC, Nov-Dec 1932	Congress absent; smaller attendance; discussions fed into later constitutional reform
Attended all three	B. R. Ambedkar and Tej Bahadur Sapru

Administrative and Educational Milestones

Milestone	Correct Association
Regulating Act, 1773	Created Governor-General of Bengal; Warren Hastings was first
Supreme Court at Calcutta	Established by royal charter in 1774
Charter Act, 1833	Governor-General of Bengal became Governor-General of India; Bentinck was first
English Education Resolution, 1835	Bentinck's government accepted the policy associated with Macaulay's Minute
Universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras	Established in 1857
Government of India Act, 1858	Crown rule began; Canning became the first Viceroy
High Courts at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras	Established in 1862 under the Indian High Courts Act, 1861
Imperial Forest Department	Organised in 1864; Dietrich Brandis became the first Inspector-General of Forests
Census, 1872	First broad non-synchronous census attempt under Mayo
Census, 1881	First synchronous all-India census under Ripon
Competitive civil-service recruitment	Macaulay Committee report, 1854; open examination began in London in 1855

Treaties and Expansion Anchors

Treaty / Measure	Exam Association
Treaty of Bassein, 1802	Peshwa Baji Rao II accepted a Subsidiary Alliance; helped trigger the Second Anglo-Maratha War
Treaty of Sugauli, 1816	Ended the Anglo-Nepalese War; Nepal ceded territory and accepted a British Resident
Treaty of Lahore, 1846	Ended the First Anglo-Sikh War and imposed territorial and financial terms on Lahore
Treaty of Amritsar, 1846	Company transferred Kashmir to Gulab Singh, recognising him as Maharaja
Annexation of Punjab, 1849	Followed Company victory in the Second Anglo-Sikh War under Dalhousie

Akbar's Court Circle - Popular Exam Convention

Figure	Association
Abul Fazl	Historian and statesman; Akbarnama and Ain-i-Akbari
Faizi	Persian poet and scholar; Abul Fazl's brother
Tansen	Celebrated musician at Akbar's court
Birbal	Courtier noted in tradition for wit; joined Akbar's Din-i Ilahi fellowship
Raja Todar Mal	Revenue administration and zabt/dahsala association
Raja Man Singh	Senior Rajput mansabdar and military commander
Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khana	Commander, statesman and poet
Fakir Aziao-Din	Spiritual adviser in the popular Navaratna list
Mulla Do-Piyaza	Popular folklore figure; historicity as a fixed Navaratna is uncertain

Translations and Archaeology Anchors

Work / Person	Correct Association
Bhagavad Gita in English	Charles Wilkins, 1785
Abhijnanashakuntalam in English	William Jones, 1789
Manusmriti in English	William Jones, published 1794
Razmnama	Persian Mahabharata prepared under Akbar; Naqib Khan supervised and Badauni was among the translators
Persian Ramayana under Akbar	Translated by Abdul Qadir Badauni
Sirr-i-Akbar	Dara Shikoh's Persian translation of selected Upanishads

Work / Person	Correct Association
Alexander Cunningham	First Director-General of ASI; conventionally Father of Indian Archaeology
James Prinsep	Deciphered Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts in the 1830s
John Marshall	Director-General of ASI, 1902-31; announced the Indus civilisation discoveries
Daya Ram Sahni / R. D. Banerji	Excavated Harappa / Mohenjo-daro respectively in the early 1920s
Mortimer Wheeler	ASI Director-General, 1944-48; introduced rigorous stratigraphic field methods

Additional Books from the Image Notes

Book	Author / Note
The Sceptred Flute	Collected poems of Sarojini Naidu
Wings of Fire	A. P. J. Abdul Kalam with Arun Tiwari
India 2020	A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and Y. S. Rajan
Ignited Minds	A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
Young India - book	Lala Lajpat Rai; distinct from Gandhi's journal Young India
Long Walk to Freedom	Nelson Mandela
Midnight's Children	Salman Rushdie

Additional Titles and Distinctions

Title	Person
Father of Local Self-Government in India	Lord Ripon
Martin Luther of India	Swami Dayanand Saraswati
Bengal Kesari	Ashutosh Mookerjee
Bismarck of India	Vallabhbhai Patel
Prince of Builders	Shah Jahan
Mother of the Indian Revolution	Bhikaji Cama

History PYQs with Answers

Each answer and explanation is placed immediately after its question for direct revision.

AFCAT Official Model-Paper History & Culture

1. Who composed the national song Vande Mataram?

- A. Rabindranath Tagore
- B. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- C. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- D. Sri Aurobindo

ANSWER: C. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

Bankim Chandra wrote it for Anandamath; it later became India's national song.

[AFCAT Official Model Paper I | Indian Air Force](#)

2. Assertion: Lala Lajpat Rai led a Lahore protest in 1928 against the Simon Commission. Reason: The Commission had no Indian member.

- A. Assertion false, Reason true
- B. Assertion true, Reason false
- C. Both true, but Reason does not explain Assertion
- D. Both true and Reason explains Assertion

ANSWER: D. Both true and Reason explains Assertion

The all-British composition of the Commission drove the boycott; Rai was fatally injured during the Lahore protest.

[AFCAT Official Model Paper I | Indian Air Force](#)

3. Sattriya classical dance originated in which state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Manipur
- C. Assam
- D. West Bengal

ANSWER: C. Assam

Shankardeva developed Sattriya within Assam's Vaishnava satras.

[AFCAT Official Model Paper I | Indian Air Force](#)

4. Satyameva Jayate is taken from which Upanishad?

- A. Prashna
- B. Mandukya
- C. Mundaka
- D. Chandogya

ANSWER: C. Mundaka

The phrase appears in the Mundaka Upanishad and forms part of India's state emblem.

AFCAT Official Model Paper I | Indian Air Force

AFCAT Reported Memory-Based History | 2022-2026

5. Who formulated Din-i Ilahi?

- A. Babur
- B. Humayun
- C. Akbar
- D. Jahangir

ANSWER: C. Akbar

Akbar introduced the small ethical fellowship in 1582.

AFCAT 2022 | Reported memory-based question

6. Who was the first Viceroy of India?

- A. Lord Canning
- B. Lord Dalhousie
- C. Lord Curzon
- D. Lord Ripon

ANSWER: A. Lord Canning

Canning became the first Viceroy after Crown rule replaced Company rule in 1858.

AFCAT 2022 | Reported memory-based question

7. Who is called the Napoleon of India?

- A. Chandragupta Maurya
- B. Samudragupta
- C. Harshavardhana
- D. Kanishka

ANSWER: B. Samudragupta

Historian V. A. Smith used the epithet for Samudragupta because of his extensive conquests.

AFCAT 2022 | Reported memory-based question

8. Who presided over the Allahabad session of the Indian National Congress in 1888?

- A. W. C. Bonnerjee
- B. Dadabhai Naoroji
- C. George Yule
- D. Surendranath Banerjea

ANSWER: C. George Yule

George Yule was the first English president of the Congress.

AFCAT 2022 | Reported memory-based question

9. Prince Khurram became which Mughal emperor?

- A. Akbar
- B. Jahangir
- C. Shah Jahan
- D. Aurangzeb

ANSWER: C. Shah Jahan

Prince Khurram took the regnal title Shah Jahan in 1628.

AFCAT 2022 | Reported memory-based question

10. Whose reign is called the golden age of Mughal architecture?

- A. Akbar
- B. Jahangir
- C. Shah Jahan
- D. Aurangzeb

ANSWER: C. Shah Jahan

The Taj Mahal, Red Fort and Jama Masjid exemplify the architectural peak under Shah Jahan.

AFCAT 2022 | Reported memory-based question

11. Vikramaditya II belonged to which dynasty?

- A. Pallava
- B. Badami Chalukya
- C. Rashtrakuta
- D. Chola

ANSWER: B. Badami Chalukya

Vikramaditya II ruled the Badami Chalukyas in the eighth century.

AFCAT 2022 | Reported memory-based question

12. Who presided over the Karachi session of the Congress in 1931?

- A. Vallabhbhai Patel
- B. Subhas Chandra Bose
- C. Mahatma Gandhi
- D. Maulana Azad

ANSWER: A. Vallabhbhai Patel

Patel presided over the session that adopted resolutions on fundamental rights and national economic policy.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

13. Who was independent India's first Defence Minister?

- A. Kailash Nath Katju
- B. V. K. Krishna Menon
- C. Baldev Singh
- D. Y. B. Chavan

ANSWER: C. Baldev Singh

Sardar Baldev Singh held the defence portfolio in the first Union Cabinet.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

14. In which year did the Dandi March begin?

- A. 1919
- B. 1922
- C. 1930
- D. 1942

ANSWER: C. 1930

Gandhi began the Salt March on 12 March 1930 and reached Dandi on 6 April.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

15. Who presided over the 1927 Madras session of the Indian National Congress?

- A. M. A. Ansari
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru
- C. Motilal Nehru
- D. Vallabhbhai Patel

ANSWER: A. M. A. Ansari

Mukhtar Ahmed Ansari presided over the Madras session.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

16. Which legislation immediately preceded the nationwide Rowlatt Satyagraha?

- A. Rowlatt Act
- B. Vernacular Press Act
- C. Ilbert Bill
- D. Government of India Act 1919

ANSWER: A. Rowlatt Act

The repressive Rowlatt legislation led Gandhi to call a nationwide hartal and satyagraha in 1919.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

17. Which event preceded and helped create the atmosphere for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre?

- A. Rowlatt Act protests and arrests at Amritsar
- B. Chauri Chaura
- C. Simon Commission boycott
- D. Quit India resolution

ANSWER: A. Rowlatt Act protests and arrests at Amritsar

Protests against the Rowlatt Act and the arrest of local leaders preceded the firing of 13 April 1919.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

18. In which year was Banaras Hindu University established?

- A. 1905
- B. 1911
- C. 1916
- D. 1920

ANSWER: C. 1916

BHU was founded in 1916 through the efforts of Madan Mohan Malaviya and others.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

19. In which year did the Surat Split of the Congress occur?

- A. 1905
- B. 1907
- C. 1909
- D. 1911

ANSWER: B. 1907

The Moderates and Extremists split at the Surat session in 1907.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

20. Where did the Indigo Revolt of 1859-60 occur?

- A. Bengal
- B. Punjab
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Awadh

ANSWER: A. Bengal

Indigo cultivators in Bengal resisted coercive European planters.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

21. At which Congress session was the Purna Swaraj resolution adopted?

- A. Calcutta, 1928
- B. Lahore, 1929
- C. Karachi, 1931
- D. Lucknow, 1916

ANSWER: B. Lahore, 1929

The Lahore session under Jawaharlal Nehru declared complete independence as the goal.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

22. Which Viceroy was in office during the Jallianwala Bagh massacre?

- A. Lord Hardinge II
- B. Lord Chelmsford
- C. Lord Reading
- D. Lord Irwin

ANSWER: B. Lord Chelmsford

Lord Chelmsford was Viceroy in April 1919.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

23. What was Shivaji's council of eight ministers called?

- A. Navaratna
- B. Ashta Pradhan
- C. Panch Mahasabha
- D. Ibadat Khana

ANSWER: B. Ashta Pradhan

The Ashta Pradhan assisted Shivaji in major departments of government.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

24. Who wrote Humayun-nama?

- A. Nur Jahan
- B. Gulbadan Begum
- C. Jahanara Begum
- D. Abul Fazl

ANSWER: B. Gulbadan Begum

Humayun's half-sister Gulbadan Begum wrote the Persian memoir.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

25. Babur wrote his autobiography in which language?

- A. Persian
- B. Arabic
- C. Chagatai Turkish
- D. Sanskrit

ANSWER: C. Chagatai Turkish

The Baburnama was originally composed in Chagatai Turkish.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

26. The Ramosi uprisings were centred mainly in which region?

- A. Western India, especially Maharashtra
- B. Bengal
- C. Punjab
- D. Assam

ANSWER: A. Western India, especially Maharashtra

Ramosi resistance was concentrated in the western Deccan and Maharashtra.

AFCAT 2023 | Reported memory-based question

27. Why is the Lion Capital of Sarnath historically important?

- A. It was the Mauryan royal palace
- B. It was adopted as India's state emblem
- C. It marks Ashoka's birthplace
- D. It is a Gupta temple

ANSWER: B. It was adopted as India's state emblem

Ashoka's four-lion capital was adopted as the State Emblem of India.

AFCAT 2024 | Reported memory-based question

28. Which Mughal emperor abolished jizya?

- A. Babur
- B. Akbar
- C. Jahangir
- D. Shah Jahan

ANSWER: B. Akbar

Akbar abolished jizya in 1564; Aurangzeb later reimposed it in 1679.

AFCAT 2024 | Reported memory-based question

29. Which monument is popularly called the Black Pagoda?

- A. Brihadisvara Temple
- B. Konark Sun Temple
- C. Jagannath Temple
- D. Kailasa Temple

ANSWER: B. Konark Sun Temple

European sailors called the dark stone mass of Konark's Sun Temple the Black Pagoda.

AFCAT 2024 | Reported memory-based question

30. The Battle of Hydaspes was fought between Alexander and whom?

- A. Ambhi
- B. Porus
- C. Dhana Nanda
- D. Seleucus

ANSWER: B. Porus

Alexander fought King Porus on the Hydaspes, or Jhelum, in 326 BCE.

AFCAT 2024 | Reported memory-based question

31. Which was not a major centre of the Revolt of 1857?

- A. Delhi
- B. Kanpur
- C. Lucknow
- D. Madras

ANSWER: D. Madras

Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow were leading centres; Madras remained outside the revolt's principal zone.

AFCAT 2024 | Reported memory-based question

32. Who is called the Father of Indian Archaeology?

- A. John Marshall
- B. Alexander Cunningham
- C. Mortimer Wheeler
- D. James Prinsep

ANSWER: B. Alexander Cunningham

Alexander Cunningham founded the Archaeological Survey of India and led its early systematic work.

AFCAT 2025 | Reported memory-based question

33. Who founded the Satnami movement in central India?

- A. Guru Ghasidas
- B. Kabir
- C. Dadu Dayal
- D. Guru Nanak

ANSWER: A. Guru Ghasidas

Guru Ghasidas founded the Satnam Panth in present-day Chhattisgarh.

AFCAT 2025 | Reported memory-based question

34. What are the canonical sacred texts of Jainism generally called?

- A. Agamas
- B. Tripitaka
- C. Vedas
- D. Zend Avesta

ANSWER: A. Agamas

The Jain canonical scriptures are collectively known as the Agamas.

AFCAT 2025 | Reported memory-based question

35. Who is known as the Father of Indian Archaeology?

- A. Alexander Cunningham
- B. John Marshall
- C. R. D. Banerji
- D. Daya Ram Sahni

ANSWER: A. Alexander Cunningham

Cunningham established the Archaeological Survey of India and is conventionally given this title.

AFCAT 2026 | Reported memory-based question

36. In which year was the Rowlatt Act enacted?

- A. 1909
- B. 1919
- C. 1935
- D. 1942

ANSWER: B. 1919

The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act, commonly called the Rowlatt Act, was passed in 1919.

AFCAT 2026 | Reported memory-based question

37. The Battle of Stalingrad was a turning point in which war?

- A. First World War
- B. Second World War
- C. Crimean War
- D. Russo-Japanese War

ANSWER: B. Second World War

The Soviet victory at Stalingrad in 1942-43 reversed the German advance on the Eastern Front.

AFCAT 2026 | Reported memory-based question

CDS History PYQs | 2022

38. Which Indo-Persian terms of the Mughal period denoted a peasant: 1. Raiyat, 2. Asami, 3. Muzarian, 4. Majur?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

ANSWER: C. 1, 2 and 3 only

Raiyat, asami and muzarian were used for cultivators; majur meant a labourer.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

39. Which pioneering Bengali woman serialised her autobiography Amar Katha between 1910 and 1913?

- A. Binodini Dasi
- B. Rashsundari Debi
- C. Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain
- D. Kailashbashini Debi

ANSWER: A. Binodini Dasi

The actor and writer Binodini Dasi serialised Amar Katha before its publication in book form.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

40. Arrange these events from earliest to latest: 1. Ahmedabad Mill Strike, 2. Champaran Satyagraha, 3. Foundation of Satyagraha Sabha, 4. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4
- B. 2, 1, 3, 4
- C. 2, 4, 1, 3
- D. 4, 2, 1, 3

ANSWER: B. 2, 1, 3, 4

Champaran was in 1917, Ahmedabad in 1918, and both the Satyagraha Sabha and Jallianwala Bagh belong to 1919.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

41. Why is the year 1916 important in Indian history: 1. Lucknow Session, 2. Congress-League Pact, 3. Formation of Home Rule Leagues?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: D. 1, 2 and 3

All three developments belong to 1916 and briefly reunited major nationalist currents.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

42. Who belonged to the Serampore Mission: 1. William Carey, 2. Joshua Marshman, 3. William Ward, 4. David Hare?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

ANSWER: C. 1, 2 and 3 only

Carey, Marshman and Ward were the Serampore Trio; David Hare worked separately in Calcutta.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

43. Consider the Deccan riots: 1. In the nineteenth century peasants rose against moneylenders and grain dealers. 2. In May 1875 at Supa, peasants attacked shops, burnt account books and targeted sahuikars. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both statements describe the Deccan agrarian disturbances of 1875.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

44. Which was not a limb in Kautilya's Saptanga theory of the State?

- A. Amatya
- B. Janapada
- C. Durga
- D. Dhamma

ANSWER: D. Dhamma

The seven limbs included the ruler, ministers, territory and people, fort, treasury, army and ally; dhamma was not one of them.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

45. Regarding Ashoka's Buddhism: 1. The Rummindei and Nigali Sagar pillar inscriptions provide evidence of his faith. 2. Minor Rock Edict I proves a sudden change in his faith. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: A. 1 only

The pillar records show Buddhist devotion, while Minor Rock Edict I describes a gradual deepening of commitment rather than a sudden conversion.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

46. Which Mahajanapada was a gana or sangha polity?

- A. Magadha
- B. Vajji
- C. Avanti
- D. Kosala

ANSWER: B. Vajji

The Vajji confederacy, centred on Vaishali, was governed as a gana-sangha.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

47. Separate electorates for Muslims were introduced by which reform?

- A. Morley-Minto Reforms, 1909
- B. Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, 1919
- C. Communal Award, 1932
- D. Government of India Act, 1935

ANSWER: A. Morley-Minto Reforms, 1909

The Indian Councils Act 1909, associated with Morley and Minto, introduced separate Muslim electorates.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

48. Which were founder members of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association in September 1928: 1. Bhagat Singh, 2. Jatindranath Das, 3. Ajoy Ghosh, 4. Phanindranath Ghosh?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER: A. 1 only

Among those listed, Bhagat Singh was a founder of the reorganised HSRA; the others became associated with revolutionary activity but were not founders in this formulation.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

49. Who did not belong to the Congress group known as the No-Changers?

- A. M. A. Ansari
- B. Vithalbhai Patel
- C. C. Rajagopalachari
- D. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar

ANSWER: B. Vithalbhai Patel

Vithalbhai Patel joined the Swarajist or Pro-Changer position favouring council entry.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

50. Where was the headquarters of the Ghadar Party?

- A. San Francisco
- B. Stanford University
- C. Portland
- D. Florida

ANSWER: A. San Francisco

The Ghadar Party operated from the Yugantar Ashram in San Francisco.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

51. Which newspaper-editor pair is incorrectly matched?

- A. Navjivan - Mahatma Gandhi
- B. Mahratta - Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- C. Bengalee - Surendranath Banerjea
- D. Voice of India - Gopal Krishna Gokhale

ANSWER: D. Voice of India - Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Voice of India was associated with Dadabhai Naoroji, not Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

52. Which was not a condition of Lord Wellesley's Subsidiary Alliance?

- A. The British would protect the ally
- B. The ally was free to make agreements or wage war
- C. A British force would be stationed in the ally's territory
- D. The ally would provide resources to maintain that force

ANSWER: B. The ally was free to make agreements or wage war

An allied ruler surrendered independent diplomacy and could not wage war or negotiate without British approval.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

53. Archaeological studies showed flourishing agriculture and established rice cultivation by 1200 BCE in the vicinity of which river?

- A. Raichur Doab
- B. Krishna delta
- C. Vamsadhara
- D. Thamirabarani

ANSWER: D. Thamirabarani

Finds from the Thamirabarani region in Tamil Nadu supplied the evidence described.

CDS I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

54. What was a munjaniq in the medieval period?

- A. Cannon
- B. Catapult
- C. Gun carriage
- D. Portable armoury

ANSWER: B. Catapult

A munjaniq was a stone-throwing siege engine or catapult.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

55. Match the works with authors: Duta Ghatotkacha, Mrichchhakatika, Kiratarjuniya and Ravanavadha.

- A. Bhatti, Shudraka, Bharavi, Bhasa
- B. Bhatti, Bharavi, Shudraka, Bhasa
- C. Bhasa, Shudraka, Bharavi, Bhatti
- D. Bhasa, Bharavi, Bhatti, Shudraka

ANSWER: C. Bhasa, Shudraka, Bharavi, Bhatti

They were written respectively by Bhasa, Shudraka, Bharavi and Bhatti.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

56. On the bank of which river was the Battle of Ten Kings fought in the early Vedic period?

- A. Sarasvati
- B. Drishadvati
- C. Parushni
- D. Shutudri

ANSWER: C. Parushni

The Rigvedic battle was fought on the Parushni, generally identified with the Ravi.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

57. Which factor worsened the Bengal Famine of 1769-70?

- A. Locust attacks
- B. Rat infestation
- C. High levels of taxation
- D. Smallpox epidemic

ANSWER: C. High levels of taxation

Company revenue pressure and high taxation aggravated the food crisis.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

58. Which is not a work of Ashvaghosha?

- A. Sariputrprakarana
- B. Buddhacharita
- C. Saundarananda
- D. Manjushrimulakalpa

ANSWER: D. Manjushrimulakalpa

Manjushrimulakalpa is a Buddhist ritual text not attributed to Ashvaghosha.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

59. Which were Charvaka schools: 1. Dhurttā, 2. Nyāya, 3. Sushikshita, 4. Vaisheshika?

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

ANSWER: D. 1 and 3 only

Dhurttā and Sushikshita were divisions within the materialist Charvaka tradition.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

60. Which Sanskrit terms were used for Muslims between the eighth and fourteenth centuries: 1. Turushka, 2. Tajika, 3. Parashika, 4. Kardamaka?

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 1, 2 and 4
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 3 and 4

ANSWER: A. 1, 2 and 3

Turushka, Tajika and Parashika occur in Sanskrit sources; Kardamaka referred to a western Indian lineage.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

61. Which Harappan city had several large cisterns and reservoirs in both its citadel and lower town?

- A. Banawali
- B. Mohenjo-daro
- C. Dholavira
- D. Rakhigarhi

ANSWER: C. Dholavira

Dholavira is especially noted for its sophisticated urban water-storage system.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

62. Regarding cavalry warfare: 1. The iron stirrup helped an armoured rider remain firm. 2. It also enabled shock charges with couched lances. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both effects increased mounted stability and the impact of cavalry charges.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

63. What did British policy towards Afghanistan seek in the first half of the nineteenth century?

- A. A strong Afghan buffer against Russia
- B. Reduced Russian influence without encouraging an overly strong Afghanistan
- C. Russian control to restrain tribal leaders
- D. Direct annexation of Afghanistan

ANSWER: B. Reduced Russian influence without encouraging an overly strong Afghanistan

British policy tried to exclude Russian influence while retaining leverage over a politically dependent buffer.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

64. Who usurped power at Kanyakubja after Harshavardhana's death?

- A. Adityasena
- B. Arunashva
- C. Shashanka
- D. Lalitaditya

ANSWER: B. Arunashva

The Chinese accounts identify Harsha's minister Arunashva as the usurper.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

65. The legend of Prahlada and Hiranyakashipu was first set out in which Purana?

- A. Bhagavata Purana
- B. Vishnu Purana
- C. Vamana Purana
- D. Agni Purana

ANSWER: B. Vishnu Purana

The Vishnu Purana gives the early full Puranic narration of the Prahlada-Hiranyakashipu story.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

66. Which statement about ownership in Smriti literature is incorrect?

- A. The paternal estate was divided equally among sons
- B. Women retained gifts received at marriage
- C. Marriage gifts to women were called stridhana
- D. Children could not inherit stridhana without the husband's permission

ANSWER: D. Children could not inherit stridhana without the husband's permission

Stridhana was a woman's property and its devolution was not dependent on such permission.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

67. Who was not a woman labour leader who organised workers in strikes during the 1920s?

- A. Sarala Devi Chaudhurani
- B. Ushabai Dange
- C. Prabhavati Devi
- D. Anasuya Behn

ANSWER: A. Sarala Devi Chaudhurani

Sarala Devi was a nationalist and social reformer, whereas the others are associated with labour organisation.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

68. Which Indian thinker first discussed food-for-work measures to counter famines?

- A. Kautilya
- B. Aryabhata
- C. Chandragomin
- D. Prabhakara

ANSWER: A. Kautilya

The Arthashastra recommends public works and state support in times of distress.

CDS II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

CDS History PYQs | 2023

69. Which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Delhi?

- A. Red Fort, Qutub Minar and Jama Masjid
- B. Red Fort, India Gate and Qutub Minar
- C. Red Fort, Qutub Minar and Humayun's Tomb
- D. Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb and India Gate

ANSWER: C. Red Fort, Qutub Minar and Humayun's Tomb

Delhi's three listed cultural sites are the Red Fort complex, Qutub Minar complex and Humayun's Tomb.

CDS I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

70. Who suggested dissolving the Indian National Congress as a political organisation and replacing it with a Lok Sevak Sangh?

- A. Vallabhbhai Patel
- B. B. R. Ambedkar
- C. M. K. Gandhi
- D. Jawaharlal Nehru

ANSWER: C. M. K. Gandhi

Gandhi's final testament proposed transforming Congress into a public-service organisation.

CDS I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

71. The Kushana rulers' projected notion of kinship is best evidenced by what?

- A. Identification with deities
- B. Grants to religious institutions
- C. Inscriptional panegyrics
- D. Coins and sculpture alone

ANSWER: A. Identification with deities

Kushana royal imagery and titles closely linked kingship with divine figures.

CDS I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

72. Who were called theris in ancient India?

- A. Respected women generally
- B. Elder Buddhist nuns
- C. Women denied bhikkhuni status
- D. Women expelled from the Sangha

ANSWER: B. Elder Buddhist nuns

Theri means an elder nun; their verses are preserved in the Therigatha.

CDS I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

73. Which Servants of India Society member founded the Seva Samiti at Allahabad in 1914?

- A. Shri Ram Bajpai
- B. Hriday Nath Kunzru
- C. S. G. Vaze
- D. Srinivasa Sastri

ANSWER: B. Hriday Nath Kunzru

Hriday Nath Kunzru founded the Seva Samiti to organise social service.

CDS I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

74. Which treaty concluded the First Anglo-Maratha War?

- A. Treaty of Surat
- B. Treaty of Purandar
- C. Convention of Wadgaon
- D. Treaty of Salbai

ANSWER: D. Treaty of Salbai

The Treaty of Salbai in 1782 ended the conflict.

CDS I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

75. In which battle did Travancore defeat the Dutch in 1741?

- A. Porto Novo
- B. Colachel
- C. Pollilur
- D. Changanassery

ANSWER: B. Colachel

Marthanda Varma's forces defeated the Dutch East India Company at Colachel.

CDS I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

76. In which revolt did Koya and Konda chiefs rise against a local overlord from a mansabdar family?

- A. Rampa Rebellion, 1879-80
- B. Gudem Uprising, 1886
- C. Rampa Rebellion, 1922-24
- D. Telangana Armed Struggle

ANSWER: A. Rampa Rebellion, 1879-80

The tribal rising described belongs to the Rampa disturbances of 1879-80.

CDS I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

77. The titles Rayagajakesari and Dayagajakesari were associated with which dynasty?

- A. Kakatiya
- B. Vijayanagara
- C. Gajapati
- D. Rashtrakuta

ANSWER: C. Gajapati

The elephant-themed imperial titles were used by Odisha's Gajapati rulers.

CDS I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

78. Where is the musical inscription containing note groups arranged for pupils by a seventh- or eighth-century king?

- A. Ennayiram
- B. Uttaramerur
- C. Siyamangalam
- D. Kudumiyamalai

ANSWER: D. Kudumiyamalai

The Kudumiyamalai inscription in Tamil Nadu is a major source for early Indian music history.

CDS I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

79. What was a dastak in eighteenth-century India?

- A. Signature
- B. Land document
- C. Trade permit
- D. Tax on textiles

ANSWER: C. Trade permit

A dastak was a pass used especially for duty-free Company trade.

CDS I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

80. The dadni system was primarily associated with what?

- A. Textile production
- B. Warfare
- C. Payment to officials
- D. Revenue collection

ANSWER: A. Textile production

Merchants advanced money to weavers and bound future textile production under the dadni system.

CDS I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

81. Regarding Shivaji's negotiations with Bombay: 1. He sent an ambassador to the English. 2. He sought aid against the Siddis of Danda-Rajpuri. 3. He wanted grenades, mortars and ammunition. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: D. 1, 2 and 3

All three statements describe Shivaji's strategic approach to the English at Bombay.

CDS II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

82. How old did the Hathigumpha inscription say the Tamil confederacy was when Kharavela broke it in his eleventh regnal year?

- A. 110 years
- B. 111 years
- C. 112 years
- D. 113 years

ANSWER: D. 113 years

The inscription's conventional reading gives the age of the confederacy as 113 years.

CDS II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

83. Regarding Shankardeva: 1. His teaching is called Bhagavati dharma. 2. He encouraged satras and namghars. 3. Kirtana-ghosha is a major composition. Which is correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 3 only

ANSWER: B. 2 and 3 only

Satras, namghars and Kirtana-ghosha are correctly associated with Shankardeva; his tradition is more precisely called Eka Sarana Naam Dharma or Mahapurushiya Dharma.

CDS II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

84. Abdur Razzaq, the fifteenth-century Persian ambassador, was especially impressed by what at Calicut?

- A. Its fortifications
- B. Its climate
- C. The commodities available in its markets
- D. Its musical traditions

ANSWER: A. Its fortifications

His account particularly remarked on Calicut's fortifications and defensive strength.

CDS II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

85. Regarding Palaeolithic tools: 1. Isampur was a stone-tool workshop in Karnataka near Kamta Halla. 2. A blade is a flake more than twice as long as it is wide. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both statements are standard archaeological descriptions.

CDS II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

86. Regarding medieval South Indian science: 1. The Katapayadi system is linked with Vararuchi. 2. Achyuta Pisharati wrote Uparagakriyakrama. 3. Ravi Varma of Mahodayapuram is linked with an observatory and the Kollam era. Which is correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: D. 1, 2 and 3

All three statements reflect Kerala's mathematical and astronomical traditions.

CDS II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

87. Which South Indian dynasty issued its early documents in Prakrit and later ones in Sanskrit?

- A. Cholas
- B. Pandyas
- C. Pallavas
- D. Eastern Gangas

ANSWER: C. Pallavas

Early Pallava charters were in Prakrit; Sanskrit became dominant in later records.

CDS II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

88. Who composed the Gwalior Prashasti of Mihira Bhoja?

- A. Nagabhata
- B. Vatsaraja
- C. Baladitya
- D. Kakkuka

ANSWER: D. Kakkuka

The poet Kakkuka composed the Gwalior inscription praising the Gurjara-Pratihara ruler.

CDS II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

89. The Sahajiya cult can be traced back to which tradition?

- A. Early Bhakti
- B. Early Sufism
- C. Upanishadic philosophy
- D. Buddhism

ANSWER: D. Buddhism

Sahajiya ideas developed from esoteric Buddhist, especially Vajrayana, currents.

CDS II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

CDS History PYQs | 2024

90. Which important early Chola painting was discovered at the Brihadisvara Temple, Thanjavur, in 1931?

- A. Buddha with chauri-bearers
- B. Shiva as Yoga-Dakshinamurti
- C. Yakshi Kali
- D. Parshvanatha on a lion-throne

ANSWER: B. Shiva as Yoga-Dakshinamurti

The Chola mural cycle includes Shiva as Yoga-Dakshinamurti.

CDS I 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

91. Regarding early British railway development: 1. Private investors received land free. 2. The state guaranteed a 5 percent return. 3. Railways were jointly managed with government. How many are correct?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. None

ANSWER: B. Two

The guarantee system provided free land and a guaranteed return, while private companies managed the lines under state oversight.

CDS I 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

92. Which industry was most affected by India's nineteenth-century deindustrialisation?

- A. Silk manufacture
- B. Cotton textiles
- C. Iron and steel
- D. Woollen manufacture

ANSWER: B. Cotton textiles

Machine-made British cloth devastated India's large cotton-handloom sector.

CDS I 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

93. Regarding early nationalism: 1. Mehta and Tyabji helped form the Bombay Presidency Association. 2. Surendranath Banerjea's group planned an Indian National Conference. 3. Hume created the Congress as a rival to these bodies. How many are correct?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. All three
- D. None

ANSWER: B. Two

The first two are correct; Hume did not found Congress as a rival body.

CDS I 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

94. Regarding widows in eighteenth-century India: 1. Sawai Jai Singh promoted widow remarriage. 2. Parshuram Bhau promoted it. 3. Rammohan Roy opposed sati. Which is correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: D. 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are accepted: Jai Singh and Parshuram Bhau supported widow remarriage, while Rammohan Roy led opposition to sati.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

95. Regarding Shivaji's administration: 1. The Ashta Pradhan system was formally defined at his coronation. 2. He promoted Marathi and coined Sanskrit administrative terms. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both measures formed part of Shivaji's state-building programme.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

96. Regarding Mesolithic art: 1. Alexander Burns found India's first rock paintings at Sohagighat. 2. V. S. Wakankar recognised Bhimbetka from a train. 3. Odisha shelters never combine paintings and engravings. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 2 only

ANSWER: B. 2 only

Wakankar's recognition of Bhimbetka is correct; the other categorical claims are not.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

97. In stupa decoration, what does kinjalkin refer to?

- A. Creepers showing ornaments and textiles
- B. Scarves and saris
- C. Mango-shaped pendants
- D. A garland of a thousand lotuses

ANSWER: D. A garland of a thousand lotuses

Kinjalkin denotes an elaborate lotus garland motif.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

98. Which were components of the Lion Capital at Sarnath: 1. Tall tapering shaft, 2. Uncarved elliptical abacus, 3. Inverted petals below the abacus?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: B. 1 and 3 only

The shaft and inverted lotus belong to the composition; the abacus is circular and richly carved, not plain and elliptical.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

99. Arrange from earliest to latest: 1. Lucknow Pact, 2. Subhas Bose's return to India during the war, 3. Cripps Mission, 4. Bombay Naval Mutiny.

- A. 4, 3, 2, 1
- B. 3, 4, 2, 1
- C. 1, 2, 3, 4
- D. 2, 1, 3, 4

ANSWER: C. 1, 2, 3, 4

The dates are 1916, 1941, 1942 and 1946 respectively.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

100. Which community was famous for metal casting and excellent matchlocks in the medieval period?

- A. Marathas
- B. Rajputs
- C. Ahoms
- D. Gonds

ANSWER: C. Ahoms

The Ahoms developed noted cannon- and matchlock-casting skills in Assam.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

101. Regarding Chola bronzes: 1. The Chola period is renowned for technical and aesthetic finesse. 2. Their iconography and style parallel stone counterparts. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both statements describe the mature Chola bronze tradition.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

102. What term did Ambedkar's draft Constitution of 4 November 1948 use for India?

- A. Union of States
- B. Federation of States
- C. Autonomous States
- D. Subsidiary States

ANSWER: A. Union of States

Article 1 described India as a Union of States.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

103. What was the Mauryan antariya?

- A. An unstitched cloth draped around the lower body
- B. A sewn sleeved tunic
- C. A woman's head covering
- D. Strips sewn together and tied at the waist

ANSWER: A. An unstitched cloth draped around the lower body

The antariya was an unstitched lower garment worn by draping.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

104. Regarding Kashmir's Utpala dynasty: 1. Avantivarman focused on economic improvement. 2. Suyya's engineering works increased grain output and lowered prices. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both are characteristic features of Avantivarman's reign.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

105. Which Mauryan offices are correctly matched: 1. Samahartri - revenue collector, 2. Dauvarika - army chief, 3. Akshapatala - records and audit, 4. Samnidhatri - treasurer?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER: B. 1, 3 and 4 only

Dauvarika was the chief chamberlain or gate official, not commander of the army.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

106. Which kingdom did Dalhousie call 'a cherry that will drop into our mouth one day'?

- A. Delhi
- B. Awadh
- C. Jhansi
- D. Gwalior

ANSWER: B. Awadh

Dalhousie's remark referred to Awadh, annexed in 1856 on the ground of misgovernment.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

107. Regarding the Census of India: 1. The first all-India census attempt was in 1872. 2. Regular decennial censuses began in 1881. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both dates are standard landmarks in Indian census history.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

108. Regarding the Second Round Table Conference era: 1. Britain rejected the basic nationalist demand for freedom. 2. India received Dominion Status in 1932. 3. Willingdon reconciled with Congress. 4. Civil Disobedience began by breaking the salt law. Which is correct?

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 4 only
- C. 1 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4

ANSWER: C. 1 and 4 only

Statements 1 and 4 are correct; Dominion Status was not granted and Willingdon used repression.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

109. Which statements about the Cabinet Mission are correct: 1. It came in 1946. 2. It proposed a weak, two-tier federal arrangement. 3. Provinces and states formed a union with a limited centre. 4. Provinces could form groups?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER: D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

All four broadly describe the Cabinet Mission Plan and its provincial groupings.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

110. Regarding Rana Kumbha: 1. He wrote a commentary on Gitagovinda. 2. He composed four dramas using provincial languages. 3. He erected the Vijay or Kirti Stambha at Chittor after victory over Gujarat and Malwa. Which is correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 3 only

ANSWER: A. 1, 2 and 3

All three statements reflect Rana Kumbha's literary patronage and military commemoration.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

111. Which Chola king permitted the Sailendra ruler of Srivijaya to build a Buddhist vihara at Nagapattinam?

- A. Parantaka I
- B. Rajaraja I
- C. Rajendra I
- D. Kulottunga I

ANSWER: B. Rajaraja I

Rajaraja I granted the request connected with the Chudamani Vihara at Nagapattinam.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

112. Who was not one of Krishnadevaraya's court poets?

- A. Timmana
- B. Dhurjati
- C. Mallana
- D. Siddheshvara

ANSWER: D. Siddheshvara

Timmana, Dhurjati and Mallana belonged to the celebrated Telugu literary circle; Siddheshvara did not.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

113. In which Mamallapuram cave temple are portraits of Simhavishnu and Mahendravarman found?

- A. Varaha Cave
- B. Ramanuja Cave
- C. Adivaraha Cave
- D. Trimurti Cave

ANSWER: C. Adivaraha Cave

The royal portrait panels are in the Adivaraha cave temple.

CDS II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

CDS History PYQs | 2025

114. Who demarcated the India-Pakistan boundaries at Partition in 1947?

- A. Cyril Radcliffe
- B. Mortimer Durand
- C. Henry McMahon
- D. Arthur Balfour

ANSWER: A. Cyril Radcliffe

Sir Cyril Radcliffe chaired the two boundary commissions.

CDS I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

115. Which statement about Muthulakshmi Reddy is incorrect?

- A. She was admitted to a men's college
- B. She was the first woman legislator in British India
- C. She was a medical professional
- D. She received the Bharat Ratna in 1956

ANSWER: D. She received the Bharat Ratna in 1956

She received the Padma Bhushan in 1956, not the Bharat Ratna.

CDS I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

116. Regarding the Indian Penal Code: 1. The First Law Commission recommended the IPC of 1860. 2. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 replaced it. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Macaulay's First Law Commission prepared the code's foundation, and the BNS replaced the IPC from 2024.

CDS I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

117. Which institution launched Bharat Vidya Pariyojana, Brihattar Bharat and Nari Samvaad Prakalp?

- A. IGNOU
- B. Sahitya Akademi
- C. Centre for Cultural Resources and Training
- D. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

ANSWER: D. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

These cultural-research initiatives belong to IGNCA.

CDS I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

118. Which institution under the Ministry of Culture promotes the preservation of the Buddha's teachings?

- A. Indian Institute of Advanced Study
- B. NCERT
- C. Nava Nalanda Mahavihara
- D. IGNOU

ANSWER: C. Nava Nalanda Mahavihara

Nava Nalanda Mahavihara is a deemed university devoted to Buddhist studies and Pali learning.

CDS I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

119. Regarding recent culture: 1. The Ahom Moidams entered the UNESCO World Heritage List. 2. Classical status was granted to Pali, Assamese, Bengali and Maithili. 3. Project PARI is a Ministry of Education initiative. Which is correct?

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: B. 1 only

Only statement 1 is correct; Maithili was not in that classical-language group and Project PARI is a Ministry of Culture initiative.

CDS I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

120. Arrange from earliest to latest: 1. Muslim League Pakistan Resolution, 2. Gandhi-Irwin Pact, 3. Dandi March, 4. Second Round Table Conference.

- A. 2, 3, 1, 4
- B. 3, 2, 4, 1
- C. 3, 4, 2, 1
- D. 2, 3, 4, 1

ANSWER: B. 3, 2, 4, 1

Dandi March began in 1930; the Gandhi-Irwin Pact and Second RTC followed in 1931; the Lahore Resolution came in 1940.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

121. How many are correctly matched: Girnar - Sudarshana Lake; Cholistan - terracotta plough; Mant - headless Kanishka statue; Sannati - Ashokan pillar edict in Odisha?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. Four

ANSWER: B. Two

Girnar and Mant are correct; the plough model is associated with Banawali, and Sannati is in Karnataka.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

122. Which statement about the Amara-Nayaka system is incorrect?

- A. It was a Vijayanagara political innovation
- B. Military commanders governed assigned territories
- C. Nayakas retained revenue to maintain troops
- D. They could not use revenue to support temples

ANSWER: D. They could not use revenue to support temples

Amara-nayakas could and did support temples and irrigation from their assigned revenues.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

123. Who wrote 'Khoob ladi mardani, woh to Jhansi wali Rani thi'?

- A. Mahadevi Varma
- B. Subhadra Kumari Chauhan
- C. Amrita Pritam
- D. Balamani Amma

ANSWER: B. Subhadra Kumari Chauhan

The famous Hindi poem Jhansi Ki Rani is by Subhadra Kumari Chauhan.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

124. Regarding Ellora: 1. It is exclusively Buddhist. 2. The Kailasa temple was built with dressed stone and fired bricks. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: D. Neither 1 nor 2

Ellora has Buddhist, Hindu and Jain caves, and Kailasa is a monolithic rock-cut temple.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

125. In which state are the Guntupalle Buddhist caves?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A. Andhra Pradesh

Guntupalle is a Buddhist rock-cut and structural complex in Andhra Pradesh.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

126. Regarding Ajanta painting: 1. It depicts yakshas, gandharvas and apsaras. 2. Artists used multiple perspectives. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both are recognised features of Ajanta's narrative murals.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

127. Who translated Neel Darpan into English?

- A. Dinabandhu Mitra
- B. Michael Madhusudan Dutt
- C. James Long
- D. James C. Scott

ANSWER: B. Michael Madhusudan Dutt

Dinabandhu Mitra wrote the Bengali play; Michael Madhusudan Dutt made the English translation, published by James Long.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

128. Regarding the Revolt of 1857: 1. Shah Mal mobilised Baraut and made an Englishman's bungalow a hall of justice. 2. Gonoo was a Kol leader in Singhbhum. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both statements identify local leaders and actions beyond the major cantonment centres.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

129. Which novel portrays Mother as she was, as she is and as she will be?

- A. Durgeshnandini
- B. Kapalkundala
- C. Anandamath
- D. Devi Chaudhurani

ANSWER: C. Anandamath

Bankim Chandra's Anandamath presents this threefold image of the motherland.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

130. How many statements are correct: 1. Pandita Ramabai wrote A Comparison Between Women and Men. 2. Tarabai Shinde practised medicine to reduce child mortality. 3. Sarojini Naidu led a delegation to London for female franchise?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. None

ANSWER: A. One

Only statement 3 is correct; Tarabai Shinde wrote Stri Purush Tulana, while Pandita Ramabai wrote other major works on women's condition.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

131. Where are the Sanikatta Salt Works, associated with Salt Satyagraha?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Kerala
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: D. Karnataka

Sanikatta is near Gokarna in coastal Karnataka.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

132. In which state is the Kalaram Temple, associated with temple-entry movements?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Kerala
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Gujarat

ANSWER: A. Maharashtra

The Kalaram Temple is at Nashik, Maharashtra; Ambedkar led a major satyagraha there.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

133. Matangini Hazra and Lakshman Naik died during which movement?

- A. Bardoli Satyagraha
- B. Non-Cooperation Movement
- C. Civil Disobedience Movement
- D. Quit India Movement

ANSWER: D. Quit India Movement

Both were killed during the Quit India upsurge of 1942.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

134. In Indian history, the word hopehi was associated with what?

- A. Cloth
- B. Coins
- C. Land measurement
- D. A South Indian sport

ANSWER: A. Cloth

Hopehi referred to a variety of cloth in commercial records.

CDS II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

CDS History PYQs | 2026

135. Regarding Rudradaman's Junagadh inscription: 1. It is in Kharosthi and Prakrit. 2. It records restoration of Sudarshana Lake. 3. It is undated. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: B. 2 only

The dated Sanskrit inscription in Brahmi records repairs to Sudarshana Lake; statements 1 and 3 are false.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

136. The Bower Manuscript is a valuable source for which subject in ancient India?

- A. Medicine
- B. Mathematics
- C. Astronomy
- D. Chemistry

ANSWER: A. Medicine

Its birch-bark texts include important early material on Ayurveda and medicine.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

137. Who was the only Indian member present when the Vernacular Press Bill came before the Legislative Council?

- A. Jotendra Mohan Tagore
- B. Peary Mohan Mukherjea
- C. Dinshaw Petit
- D. Dadabhai Naoroji

ANSWER: A. Jotendra Mohan Tagore

Jotendra Mohan Tagore was the sole Indian member present when the bill was considered.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

138. Regarding Ranigumpha Cave: 1. It is plain and has no sculpture. 2. It is two-storeyed. 3. It has an oval courtyard. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: B. 2 only

Ranigumpha is richly carved and two-storeyed; its open court is not oval.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

139. Where is the Mesolithic site of Bagor?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Haryana
- D. Punjab

ANSWER: A. Rajasthan

Bagor lies on the Kothari River in Rajasthan.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

140. At which Neolithic sites have extensive pit dwellings been identified?

- A. Piklihal and Maski
- B. Chirand and Tekkalkota
- C. Kodekal and Hallur
- D. Burzahom and Gufkral

ANSWER: D. Burzahom and Gufkral

Both Burzahom and Gufkral are Kashmir Neolithic sites with pit dwellings.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

141. The Chalcolithic Ahar culture developed in which river systems?

- A. Sarayu and Ganga
- B. Krishna and Tungabhadra
- C. Banas and Berach
- D. Brahmaputra and Meghna

ANSWER: C. Banas and Berach

Ahar-Banas sites are concentrated in south-eastern Rajasthan around the Banas and Berach rivers.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

142. Which is a Neolithic site?

- A. Bhimbetka
- B. Utnur
- C. Adamgarh
- D. Birbhanpur

ANSWER: B. Utnur

Utnur is a southern Neolithic ash-mound site; the others are better known for earlier prehistoric phases.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

143. Which Coromandel Coast site provides major evidence for Indo-Roman trade around 100 BCE-200 CE?

- A. Arikamedu
- B. Tamralipti
- C. Bharukachchha
- D. Muchiri

ANSWER: A. Arikamedu

Arikamedu near Puducherry yielded amphorae, Roman pottery and other trade evidence.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

144. Regarding Gupta kings: 1. They assumed titles such as Maharajadhiraja and Parama-bhattaraka. 2. They used divine epithets such as Parama-daivata and Parama-bhagavata. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both sets of titles expressed imperial and sacred kingship.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

145. Who wrote the Arabic travel account Rihla containing rich details on India?

- A. Al-Biruni
- B. Ibn Battuta
- C. Francois Bernier
- D. Nizamuddin Ahmad

ANSWER: B. Ibn Battuta

The Moroccan traveller Ibn Battuta wrote the Rihla after serving at Muhammad bin Tughlaq's court.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

146. What were Basavanna's followers called?

- A. Virashaivas
- B. Pushtimargis
- C. Aradhoots
- D. Nathpanthis

ANSWER: A. Virashaivas

Basavanna led the Virashaiva or Lingayat movement in twelfth-century Karnataka.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

147. Regarding the Industrial Revolution: 1. Machinery replaced handicraft production. 2. Industrial countries depended on overseas raw materials. 3. Large-scale factory production expanded. Which is correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: D. 1, 2 and 3

All three describe central economic consequences of industrialisation.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

148. Which Ashokan inscription-location pairs are correct: 1. Jaugada-Karnataka, 2. Bahapur-New Delhi, 3. Rajula-Mandagiri-Andhra Pradesh?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3
- C. 2 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

ANSWER: D. 2 and 3 only

Jaugada is in Odisha; Bahapur and Rajula-Mandagiri are correctly located.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

149. In Indo-Roman trade, what did the term arel refer to?

- A. Perfume
- B. Wine
- C. Black pepper
- D. Coins

ANSWER: C. Black pepper

Arel was a trade term used for pepper.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

150. Basohli miniature painting belongs to which broad regional school?

- A. Bihar
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Himachal or Pahari region

ANSWER: D. Himachal or Pahari region

Basohli is one of the earliest bold Pahari miniature styles of the western Himalaya.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

151. Which factors aided Magadha's rise: 1. Productive agriculture, 2. Access to iron, 3. Availability of elephants?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: D. 1, 2 and 3

Fertile land, mineral resources and war elephants all strengthened Magadha.

CDS I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

NDA History PYQs | 2022

152. The Arthashastra, a classical work of Indian political thought, focuses primarily on what?

- A. Economy
- B. Culture
- C. Statecraft
- D. Monarchy

ANSWER: C. Statecraft

Kautilya's Arthashastra is a systematic treatise on statecraft, administration, diplomacy and political economy.

[NDA I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper](#)

153. When did the Charaka Samhita originate?

- A. Sixth century BCE
- B. Third to second century BCE
- C. Fourth century BCE
- D. Fifth century BCE

ANSWER: B. Third to second century BCE

The core of the Charaka tradition is conventionally placed around the last centuries BCE, with later redaction.

[NDA I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper](#)

154. Through which symbols did early Buddhist sculptors represent the Buddha without depicting him in human form?

- A. Empty seat and stupa only
- B. Wheel and tree only
- C. Wheel, tree and stupa only
- D. Empty seat, wheel, tree and stupa

ANSWER: D. Empty seat, wheel, tree and stupa

The empty throne, dharmachakra, Bodhi tree and stupa all functioned as aniconic symbols.

[NDA I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper](#)

155. Which rights appear in the American Declaration of Independence: 1. Life, 2. Liberty, 3. Pursuit of happiness, 4. Fraternity?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER: C. 1, 2 and 3

The Declaration names life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as unalienable rights.

[NDA I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper](#)

156. Which American president described democracy as government of the people, by the people and for the people?

- A. Abraham Lincoln
- B. Thomas Jefferson
- C. George Washington
- D. John F. Kennedy

ANSWER: A. Abraham Lincoln

The formulation comes from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address of 1863.

NDA I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

157. Who first used the term Industrial Revolution?

- A. J. A. Blanqui
- B. T. S. Ashton
- C. Arnold Toynbee
- D. R. H. Tawney

ANSWER: A. J. A. Blanqui

The French economist Jerome-Adolphe Blanqui used the expression before Toynbee popularised it in English.

NDA I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

158. Who organised the Khudai Khidmatgar, or Servants of God?

- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan
- C. M. A. Jinnah
- D. M. M. Malaviya

ANSWER: B. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan

Ghaffar Khan organised the non-violent Pashtun movement, also called the Red Shirts.

NDA I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

159. Who organised the Mahad Satyagraha of 1927?

- A. B. R. Ambedkar
- B. Mahatma Gandhi
- C. Subhas Chandra Bose
- D. Bal Gangadhar Tilak

ANSWER: A. B. R. Ambedkar

Ambedkar led the struggle for equal access to the Chavdar tank at Mahad.

NDA I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

160. Who founded the Satyashodhak Samaj?

- A. Vinoba Bhave
- B. Jyotiba Phule
- C. B. R. Ambedkar
- D. C. Rajagopalachari

ANSWER: B. Jyotiba Phule

Jyotiba Phule founded the Truth-Seeking Society in 1873.

NDA I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

161. The thirteenth-century text Lekhapaddhati provides information about what?

- A. The art of handwriting
- B. Essay writing
- C. Legal documents
- D. Epigraphic style

ANSWER: C. Legal documents

Lekhapaddhati is a collection of documentary forms useful for studying administration, law and society.

NDA I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

162. Kwame Nkrumah, one of the core leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement, led which African country?

- A. Nigeria
- B. Kenya
- C. Uganda
- D. Ghana

ANSWER: D. Ghana

Nkrumah led Ghana to independence and became its first prime minister and president.

NDA I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

163. From which proposal was the idea of planning in independent India most directly drawn?

- A. Bombay Plan
- B. Peasant demands
- C. Trade-union demands
- D. Gandhian vision alone

ANSWER: A. Bombay Plan

The Bombay Plan was an influential pre-independence blueprint advocating planned economic development.

NDA I 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

164. Who founded the Vijayanagara Empire?

- A. Harihara and Bukka
- B. Krishnadevaraya
- C. Rama Raya
- D. Virupaksha Raya

ANSWER: A. Harihara and Bukka

Harihara I and Bukka I founded the Sangama dynasty and the Vijayanagara state in the fourteenth century.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

165. The Arabic work Kalila wa Dimna is a translation of which Indian text?

- A. Hitopadesha
- B. Panchatantra
- C. Suryasiddhanta
- D. Kathasaritsagara

ANSWER: B. Panchatantra

The animal fables travelled from the Sanskrit Panchatantra through Pahlavi into Arabic as Kalila wa Dimna.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

166. Who initiated the Bhoodan Movement?

- A. Ram Prasad Bismil
- B. Vinoba Bhave
- C. Mahatma Gandhi
- D. Kanhu Murmu

ANSWER: B. Vinoba Bhave

Vinoba Bhave began the land-gift movement at Pochampally in 1951.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

167. Which river was not crossed by Alexander and his army in India?

- A. Hyphasis
- B. Acesines
- C. Hydraotes
- D. Hydaspes

ANSWER: A. Hyphasis

Alexander's troops refused to cross the Hyphasis, the Beas; the other rivers lay along his completed route.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

168. Who described the medieval Indian horse-post as uluq and foot-post as dawa?

- A. Al-Biruni
- B. Duarte Barbosa
- C. Ibn Battuta
- D. Seydi Ali Reis

ANSWER: C. Ibn Battuta

Ibn Battuta described the rapid postal and intelligence network of Muhammad bin Tughlaq's India.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

169. At which Harappan site were fire altars found?

- A. Kalibangan
- B. Harappa
- C. Mohenjo-daro
- D. Rakhigarhi

ANSWER: A. Kalibangan

Kalibangan is especially known for a row of brick fire altars.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

170. Match Ashokan officials with functions: Anta-mahamatta, Itthihaka-mahamatta, Dhamma-mahamatta and Nagalaviyohalaka-mahamatta.

- A. City, Dhamma, women, frontier
- B. City, women, Dhamma, frontier
- C. Frontier, women, Dhamma, city
- D. Frontier, Dhamma, women, city

ANSWER: C. Frontier, women, Dhamma, city

They dealt respectively with frontier affairs, women's welfare, propagation of dhamma and city judicial-administrative work.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

171. Who wrote Hastyayurveda?

- A. Palakapya
- B. Vagbhata
- C. Sushruta
- D. Charaka

ANSWER: A. Palakapya

The elephant-medicine treatise Hastyayurveda is traditionally attributed to Palakapya.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

172. Who invented the flying shuttle?

- A. James Hargreaves
- B. John Kay
- C. James Watt
- D. Humphry Davy

ANSWER: B. John Kay

John Kay patented the flying shuttle in 1733, accelerating loom weaving.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

173. Where did Subhas Chandra Bose announce the Provisional Government of Free India in 1943?

- A. Singapore
- B. Shanghai
- C. Berlin
- D. Mandalay

ANSWER: A. Singapore

Bose proclaimed the Azad Hind Government in Singapore on 21 October 1943.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

174. Who moved the Objectives Resolution in the Constituent Assembly on 13 December 1946?

- A. Jawaharlal Nehru
- B. Rajendra Prasad
- C. B. R. Ambedkar
- D. Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar

ANSWER: A. Jawaharlal Nehru

Nehru introduced the resolution that later informed the Preamble.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

175. Arrange from earliest to latest: Kheda peasant movement, Bardoli movement, Gandhi-Irwin Pact and Second Round Table Conference.

- A. Kheda, Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Bardoli, Second RTC
- B. Kheda, Bardoli, Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Second RTC
- C. Bardoli, Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Second RTC, Kheda
- D. Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Second RTC, Kheda, Bardoli

ANSWER: B. Kheda, Bardoli, Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Second RTC

The sequence is Kheda 1918, Bardoli 1928, Gandhi-Irwin Pact March 1931 and Second RTC later in 1931.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

176. Regarding the Unionist Party: 1. It represented major landholding interests in Punjab. 2. It opposed Partition into India and Pakistan. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

The cross-communal agrarian Unionists defended a united Punjab and opposed the Muslim League's partition programme.

NDA II 2022 | Official UPSC Paper

NDA History PYQs | 2023

177. Which eastern district held a referendum in 1947 on whether to join Pakistan?

- A. Sylhet
- B. Goalpara
- C. Cachar
- D. Jalpaiguri

ANSWER: A. Sylhet

The Sylhet referendum resulted in most of the district joining East Pakistan.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

178. Which statement about the Rabatak inscription is incorrect?

- A. It illuminates Kushana genealogy
- B. It calls Kanishka king of kings and son of god
- C. It is written in Gandhari
- D. It names regions in Kanishka's empire

ANSWER: C. It is written in Gandhari

The inscription is in the Bactrian language written in Greek script, not Gandhari.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

179. Who wrote the Sanskrit drama Mrichchhakatika?

- A. Kalidasa
- B. Bhasa
- C. Valmiki
- D. Shudraka

ANSWER: D. Shudraka

Mrichchhakatika, or The Little Clay Cart, is attributed to Shudraka.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

180. Yashovarman was ruler of which kingdom?

- A. Kannauj
- B. Mewar
- C. Marwar
- D. Kalinga

ANSWER: A. Kannauj

Yashovarman ruled Kannauj in the eighth century.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

181. Who established Pataliputra as the capital of Magadha?

- A. Bimbisara
- B. Bindusara
- C. Ajatashatru
- D. Udayin

ANSWER: D. Udayin

Ajatashatru fortified the site; his successor Udayin shifted the capital to Pataliputra.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

182. Who established that the Earth and other planets revolve around the Sun?

- A. Copernicus
- B. Kepler
- C. Galileo
- D. Newton

ANSWER: A. Copernicus

Copernicus formulated the modern heliocentric model; later scientists refined and supported it.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

183. Which Renaissance artist painted The Last Supper?

- A. Michelangelo
- B. Donatello
- C. Botticelli
- D. Leonardo da Vinci

ANSWER: D. Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo painted the mural for Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

184. Which European explorer conquered the Aztec empire in Mexico?

- A. Vasco da Gama
- B. Bartolomeu Dias
- C. Ferdinand Magellan
- D. Hernan Cortes

ANSWER: D. Hernan Cortes

Cortes led the Spanish conquest of the Aztec empire.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

185. Near which city have large statues of Kushana rulers been found?

- A. Karnal
- B. Ropar
- C. Hisar
- D. Mathura

ANSWER: D. Mathura

Monumental royal figures were found at Mathura, a major Kushana centre.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

186. The Treaty of Yandabo ended which war?

- A. First Anglo-Burmese War
- B. Second Anglo-Burmese War
- C. Anglo-Kuki War
- D. Anglo-Maratha War

ANSWER: A. First Anglo-Burmese War

The treaty of 1826 concluded the First Anglo-Burmese War.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

187. Kanaklata Barua was martyred during which movement?

- A. Revolt of 1857
- B. Quit India Movement
- C. Non-Cooperation Movement
- D. Peasant uprising of 1893-94

ANSWER: B. Quit India Movement

She was shot while leading a procession to raise the national flag at Gohpur police station in 1942.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

188. Which statement about the Mughal mansabdari system is correct?

- A. All army personnel received mansabs
- B. Mansabs were hereditary
- C. A mansabdar's position and salary were indicated by a numerical zat rank
- D. Mansabdars were never paid in cash

ANSWER: C. A mansabdar's position and salary were indicated by a numerical zat rank
Zat fixed personal rank and salary, while sawar indicated the cavalry obligation.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

189. Which Governor-General of Bengal faced impeachment proceedings in the British Parliament?

- A. Robert Clive
- B. Henry Vansittart
- C. Warren Hastings
- D. Lord Cornwallis

ANSWER: C. Warren Hastings
Warren Hastings was impeached in 1787 and ultimately acquitted in 1795.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

190. Who composed the Prayaga Prashasti of Samudragupta?

- A. Harishena
- B. Chand Bardai
- C. Vishakhadatta
- D. Kalidasa

ANSWER: A. Harishena
Samudragupta's court poet and officer Harishena composed the Allahabad pillar eulogy.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

191. Which kingdom was founded by the brothers Harihara and Bukka?

- A. Bahmani
- B. Vijayanagara
- C. Malwa
- D. Maratha

ANSWER: B. Vijayanagara
The brothers established the Vijayanagara kingdom in the fourteenth century.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

192. Where did the Danes establish an important settlement in India?

- A. Chinsura
- B. Karaikal
- C. Mahe
- D. Tranquebar

ANSWER: D. Tranquebar

The Danish East India Company established itself at Tranquebar, now Tharangambadi, in 1620.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

193. Regarding Lachit Borphukan: 1. He was an Ahom general. 2. He led at Saraighat. 3. The NDA awards a gold medal in his name to its best cadet. Which is correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 2 only

ANSWER: A. 1, 2 and 3

All three statements commemorate the Ahom commander and his legacy.

NDA I 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

194. Which was not a method by which ancient Indian kings claimed higher status?

- A. Identifying themselves with deities
- B. Assuming grand titles
- C. Imposing high taxes
- D. Conquest and annexation

ANSWER: C. Imposing high taxes

Divine association, titles and conquest advertised rank; high taxation was not itself a recognised claim to ritual-political status.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

195. Which statement about the Bhakti movement is incorrect?

- A. It avoided traditions that promoted diversity
- B. Northern traditions often centred on Rama and Krishna
- C. It included devotion to God with and without attributes
- D. Tulsidas followed saguna and Kabir nirguna devotion

ANSWER: A. It avoided traditions that promoted diversity

Bhakti traditions were diverse in language, deity, social setting and theological approach.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

196. What did the Reign of Terror in revolutionary France refer to?

- A. Bands coercing non-participants
- B. Royal punishment of revolutionaries
- C. Revolutionary tribunals trying and executing perceived enemies of the republic
- D. General insecurity after the king's execution

ANSWER: C. Revolutionary tribunals trying and executing perceived enemies of the republic
From 1793 to 1794, revolutionary courts condemned large numbers of alleged enemies to death.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

197. How did Europe's position change after the First World War?

- A. It changed from a creditor continent into a debtor continent
- B. Soldiers permanently outranked civilians
- C. Support for dictatorship fell everywhere
- D. National honour disappeared from politics

ANSWER: A. It changed from a creditor continent into a debtor continent
War finance shifted financial power toward the United States and left European states heavily indebted.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

198. 'The immediate ending of British rule in India is an urgent necessity' was a resolution of which movement?

- A. Non-Cooperation
- B. Quit India
- C. Individual Satyagraha
- D. Civil Disobedience

ANSWER: B. Quit India
The Bombay resolution of August 1942 launched the Quit India Movement.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

199. Nation First: The Golden Saga of 82 Years is the history of which organisation?

- A. Indo-Tibetan Border Police
- B. Border Security Force
- C. Central Reserve Police Force
- D. Central Industrial Security Force

ANSWER: C. Central Reserve Police Force
The commemorative volume chronicles the CRPF from its 1939 origin as the Crown Representative's Police.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

200. Regarding Sanchi: 1. In 1818 three gateways stood and the fourth lay fallen. 2. Its reliefs include elephants, horses, monkeys and cattle. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both statements describe the monument's discovery and sculptural programme.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

201. Which Five-Year Plan focused on rapid industrialisation-led growth?

- A. First Plan
- B. Second Plan
- C. Fifth Plan
- D. Seventh Plan

ANSWER: B. Second Plan

The Second Plan prioritised heavy industry under the Mahalanobis strategy.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

202. Who composed the sixteenth-century Chandimangal?

- A. Hema Saraswati
- B. Madhav Kandali
- C. Turam
- D. Mukundaram Chakrabarti

ANSWER: D. Mukundaram Chakrabarti

Mukundaram Chakrabarti, also known as Kavikankan, wrote the Bengali Chandimangal.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

203. Regarding Vijayanagara's royal centre: 1. It lay in the south-west of the settlement. 2. It contained more than sixty temples. 3. About thirty complexes are identified as palaces. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1 and 2 only

ANSWER: C. 1, 2 and 3

All three statements describe the excavated royal centre at Hampi.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

204. Regarding Harappan agriculture: 1. Terracotta plough models occur in Cholistan and Banawali. 2. Kalibangan has a Mature Harappan ploughed field. 3. Its crossed furrows suggest mixed cropping. Which is correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. None

ANSWER: A. 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are supported by Harappan archaeological evidence.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

205. Regarding Industrial Revolution inventions: 1. Crompton's mule spun strong, fine yarn. 2. Arkwright's water frame helped make strong cotton yarn. 3. Cartwright's power loom mechanised weaving. Which is correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 3 only

ANSWER: B. 1, 2 and 3

All three innovations advanced mechanised cotton spinning or weaving, though their designs continued to be refined.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

206. Who is known as the architect of Indian planning?

- A. V. K. R. V. Rao
- B. Sukhamoy Chakravarty
- C. P. C. Mahalanobis
- D. John Mathai

ANSWER: C. P. C. Mahalanobis

Mahalanobis provided the statistical and strategic model underlying the Second Five-Year Plan.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

207. Which Ashokan Minor Rock Edict contains the personal name Ashoka?

- A. Maski
- B. Bahapur
- C. Bairat
- D. Sasaram

ANSWER: A. Maski

The Maski inscription was crucial because it explicitly linked the name Ashoka with Devanampiya Piyadasi.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

208. Arrange from earliest to latest: Ashtadhyayi, Sangam literature, Charaka Samhita and Bharata's Natyashastra.

- A. Charaka, Sangam, Ashtadhyayi, Natyashastra
- B. Natyashastra, Ashtadhyayi, Charaka, Sangam
- C. Ashtadhyayi, Sangam, Charaka, Natyashastra
- D. Sangam, Charaka, Natyashastra, Ashtadhyayi

ANSWER: C. Ashtadhyayi, Sangam, Charaka, Natyashastra

Panini precedes the broad Sangam age; the received Charaka and Natyashastra traditions reached form in the following centuries.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

209. Regarding Bhoodan: 1. Vinoba organised the Sarvodaya Samaj for non-violent transformation. 2. Jayaprakash Narayan joined Bhoodan in 1953. 3. The first land gift came at Pochampally. How many are correct?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. None

ANSWER: C. Three

All three statements belong to the early history of the Bhoodan-Sarvodaya movement.

NDA II 2023 | Official UPSC Paper

NDA History PYQs | 2024

210. Regarding nineteenth-century British-Indian trade: 1. Britain exported more to India than it imported. 2. India helped Britain balance external deficits. 3. Opium became India's largest export after the 1820s. 4. Raw-material exports declined while manufactures rose. Which is correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D. 1, 2 and 3 only

ANSWER: D. 1, 2 and 3 only

The first three are correct; colonial trade increasingly exported Indian raw materials and imported manufactures.

NDA I 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

211. Match early Indian units: muhurta, raktika, angula and pada.

- A. Time, weight, length, metre of poetry
- B. Time, length, weight, metre of poetry
- C. Metre, length, weight, time
- D. Metre, weight, length, time

ANSWER: A. Time, weight, length, metre of poetry

Muhurta measured time, raktika weight, angula length and pada a metrical quarter or poetic foot.

NDA I 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

212. Who first issued Indian coins bearing rulers' names and portraits?

- A. Mauryas
- B. Pushyabhutis
- C. Guptas
- D. Indo-Greeks

ANSWER: D. Indo-Greeks

Indo-Greek coins introduced realistic royal portraits and legends naming rulers.

NDA I 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

213. Industrialisation, urbanisation, secularisation and bureaucratisation were viewed by social theorists as hallmarks of what?

- A. Modernity
- B. Feudalism
- C. Kingship
- D. Medievalism

ANSWER: A. Modernity

These transformations define the conventional sociological idea of modernity.

NDA I 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

214. Arrange from earliest to latest: 1. Non-Cooperation Movement, 2. All-India Khilafat Conference at Delhi, 3. Rowlatt Act, 4. Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4
- B. 3, 4, 2, 1
- C. 3, 2, 4, 1
- D. 2, 3, 4, 1

ANSWER: B. 3, 4, 2, 1

The Rowlatt Act and Jallianwala Bagh came in 1919, followed by the Delhi Khilafat Conference and then Non-Cooperation in 1920.

NDA I 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

215. Match land systems: ryotwari, pattadar, mirasidar and inam lands.

- A. Direct peasant revenue, Maratha tenancy, co-parcenary title, revenue-free grant
- B. Maratha tenancy, direct peasant revenue, grant, co-parcenary title
- C. Co-parcenary title, grant, direct peasant revenue, Maratha tenancy
- D. Grant, direct peasant revenue, co-parcenary title, Maratha tenancy

ANSWER: A. Direct peasant revenue, Maratha tenancy, co-parcenary title, revenue-free grant
Ryots paid directly, pattadar denoted a tenure-holder, mirasidars held hereditary co-parcenary rights, and inam was a grant.

NDA I 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

216. Regarding Krishnadevaraya: 1. He campaigned against Odisha. 2. He captured Raichur from Ismail Adil Shah in 1520. 3. He restored Mahmud Shah and took the title Yavana-rajya-sthapanacharya. Which is correct?

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 1 and 2 only

ANSWER: C. 1, 2 and 3
All three statements belong to Krishnadevaraya's military and diplomatic record.

NDA I 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

217. Taxila was the capital of which Mahajanapada?

- A. Kuru
- B. Kasi
- C. Gandhara
- D. Avanti

ANSWER: C. Gandhara
Taxila was a major political and educational centre of Gandhara.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

218. Who was the last Governor-General of India before the office was abolished?

- A. Lord Mountbatten
- B. C. Rajagopalachari
- C. Lord Wavell
- D. Lord Linlithgow

ANSWER: B. C. Rajagopalachari
Rajagopalachari served from 1948 until India became a republic in 1950.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

219. Why was the Planning Commission established in the 1950s: 1. To raise production and expand employment, 2. To assess the country's resources?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both resource assessment and coordinated development for output and employment were central objectives.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

220. Which statements on Five-Year Plans are correct: 1. First and Ninth prioritised agriculture, 2. Third used Harrod-Domar, 3. Seventh stressed food, work and productivity, 4. Ninth stressed massive public investment?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3
- C. 3 and 4
- D. 1, 2 and 4

ANSWER: B. 1 and 3

Statements 1 and 3 are correct; the model and investment characterisations in 2 and 4 are not.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

221. Which plans were proposed before the First Five-Year Plan: Bombay Plan, People's Plan, Sarvodaya Plan and Gandhian Plan?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER: D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

All four were pre-1951 approaches to India's post-colonial development.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

222. Which statement about Industrial Revolution technology is correct?

- A. Thomas Savery invented the astrolabe
- B. Thomas Newcomen invented chemical dyes
- C. James Watt turned the steam engine from a pump into a source of rotary industrial power
- D. Matthew Boulton discovered gold refining

ANSWER: C. James Watt turned the steam engine from a pump into a source of rotary industrial power

Watt's improvements made steam power far more efficient and adaptable to factory machinery.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

223. Who established the first successful cotton mill in British India, which began production in 1856?

- A. G. D. Birla
- B. Jamnalal Bajaj
- C. Ambalal Sarabhai
- D. C. N. Davar

ANSWER: D. C. N. Davar

Cowasji Nanabhoy Davar established the Bombay Spinning and Weaving Company.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

224. Regarding linguistic reorganisation: 1. Gandhi argued for linguistic provinces. 2. The Constituent Assembly incorporated linguistic reorganisation in the Constitution. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: A. 1 only

Congress and Gandhi had accepted the linguistic principle, but the Constitution did not immediately reorganise all states on that basis.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

225. C. Rajagopalachari's salt march inspired by Dandi ran from where to Vedaranyam?

- A. Tirunelveli
- B. Kanchipuram
- C. Trichinopoly
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: C. Trichinopoly

Rajaji marched from Trichinopoly, now Tiruchirappalli, to Vedaranyam in 1930.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

226. Where did Vinoba Bhave receive the first land donation of the Bhoodan Movement?

- A. Ramgarh
- B. Garhwa
- C. Hyderabad city
- D. Pochampally

ANSWER: D. Pochampally

The first donation was made at Pochampally in present-day Telangana in April 1951.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

227. Through which route was maize introduced into India?

- A. America and England
- B. Africa and Spain
- C. France and Russia
- D. Portugal and Italy

ANSWER: D. Portugal and Italy

Maize reached India through the post-Columbian Portuguese-mediated route; the paper's paired option is Portugal and Italy.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

228. Vijayanagara rulers claimed to govern on behalf of which deity?

- A. Murugan
- B. Venkateshwara
- C. Virupaksha
- D. Vallabha

ANSWER: C. Virupaksha

Virupaksha, a form of Shiva and patron deity of Hampi, was treated as the kingdom's divine sovereign.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

229. Which Vijayanagara king did Domingo Paes describe as fair, of medium height, rather fat and marked by smallpox?

- A. Krishnadevaraya
- B. Rama Raya
- C. Devaraya II
- D. Devaraya I

ANSWER: A. Krishnadevaraya

The Portuguese traveller's celebrated description is of Krishnadevaraya.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

230. Kanaklata Barua died while participating in which movement?

- A. Rowlatt Satyagraha
- B. Non-Cooperation
- C. Civil Disobedience
- D. Quit India

ANSWER: D. Quit India

The Assamese freedom fighter was shot while leading a procession during Quit India in 1942.

NDA II 2024 | Official UPSC Paper

NDA History PYQs | 2025

231. Regarding Shankardeva: 1. He led Assamese Vaishnavism. 2. He founded Gaudiya Vaishnavism. 3. His teaching is called Bhagavati Dharma. 4. He encouraged satras and namghars. Which is correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

ANSWER: C. 1, 3 and 4 only

Shankardeva led Eka Sarana Vaishnavism in Assam; Chaitanya, not Shankardeva, is associated with Gaudiya Vaishnavism.

NDA I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

232. Where did the English East India Company establish a factory in 1611?

- A. Madras
- B. Masulipatam
- C. Bombay
- D. Balasore

ANSWER: B. Masulipatam

Masulipatam on the Coromandel Coast was the Company's first major factory in southern India.

NDA I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

233. Arrange from earliest to latest: Lucknow Pact, formation of Swaraj Party, Communal Award and Simla Conference.

- A. Lucknow Pact, Swaraj Party, Communal Award, Simla Conference
- B. Swaraj Party, Lucknow Pact, Communal Award, Simla Conference
- C. Communal Award, Swaraj Party, Simla Conference, Lucknow Pact
- D. Swaraj Party, Communal Award, Lucknow Pact, Simla Conference

ANSWER: A. Lucknow Pact, Swaraj Party, Communal Award, Simla Conference

The dates are 1916, 1923, 1932 and 1945.

NDA I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

234. Which Act established a Supreme Court of Judicature at Calcutta?

- A. Regulating Act, 1773
- B. Charter Act, 1793
- C. Charter Act, 1813
- D. Government of India Act, 1858

ANSWER: A. Regulating Act, 1773

The Regulating Act authorised the court, which opened at Fort William in 1774.

NDA I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

235. Whose 1882 resolution is called the Magna Carta of local self-government in India?

- A. Lord Macaulay
- B. Lord Canning
- C. Lord Ripon
- D. Lord William Bentinck

ANSWER: C. Lord Ripon

Lord Ripon's resolution promoted elected local bodies and decentralised administration.

NDA I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

236. Which term is associated with Sufi practice?

- A. Jizya
- B. Ijara
- C. Muqaddam
- D. Murid

ANSWER: D. Murid

A murid is a disciple initiated under a Sufi guide or pir.

NDA I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

237. Arrange by adoption of universal adult franchise: Sri Lanka, Japan, India and the United States.

- A. USA, Sri Lanka, Japan, India
- B. Sri Lanka, Japan, India, USA
- C. USA, Japan, India, Sri Lanka
- D. Japan, India, USA, Sri Lanka

ANSWER: B. Sri Lanka, Japan, India, USA

Sri Lanka adopted adult franchise in 1931, Japan after the Second World War, India in 1950, and full practical enfranchisement in the USA followed the Voting Rights era.

NDA I 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

238. Who presided over the first All India Kisan Sabha session at Lucknow in April 1936?

- A. Swami Sahajanand Saraswati
- B. N. G. Ranga
- C. Ram Manohar Lohia
- D. Jayaprakash Narayan

ANSWER: A. Swami Sahajanand Saraswati

Sahajanand Saraswati became the organisation's first president.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

239. Who founded the Self-Respect Movement?

- A. Jyotiba Phule
- B. Swami Vivekananda
- C. E. V. Ramasamy Naicker
- D. B. R. Ambedkar

ANSWER: C. E. V. Ramasamy Naicker

Periyar E. V. Ramasamy launched the movement in Tamil Nadu in 1925.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

240. Which Chola land category was reserved for maintaining a school?

- A. Tirunamattukkani
- B. Shalabhoga
- C. Vellanvagai
- D. Pallichchhandam

ANSWER: B. Shalabhoga

Shalabhoga was land assigned for the support of educational institutions.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

241. Regarding the Home Rule Leagues: 1. Tilak launched his at Belgaum in April 1916. 2. Besant announced hers in September 1916. 3. Their territories were divided to avoid friction. Which is correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: D. 1, 2 and 3

All three statements describe the coordinated Tilak and Besant Home Rule campaigns.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

242. Which statement about Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar is incorrect?

- A. He was principal of Sanskrit College
- B. He served as a government school inspector
- C. He was secretary to Bethune School
- D. He founded the Widow Remarriage Association

ANSWER: D. He founded the Widow Remarriage Association

Vidyasagar championed widow remarriage, but the Widow Remarriage Association is linked with Vishnu Shastri Pandit.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

243. Match reformers with works or organisations: Vishnu Shastri Pandit-Widow Remarriage Association; Karsondas Mulji-Satya Prakash; Debendranath Tagore-Tattvabodhini Sabha; Rammohan Roy-Precepts of Jesus.

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. All four
- D. 1, 3 and 4 only

ANSWER: C. All four

All four associations are correct.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

244. At which Harappan site have traces of canals been found?

- A. Banawali
- B. Lothal
- C. Shortugai
- D. Dholavira

ANSWER: C. Shortugai

Shortugai in Afghanistan shows canal irrigation linked to a Harappan trading settlement.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

245. Arrange these travellers from earliest to latest: Ibn Battuta, Afanasy Nikitin, Antonio Monserrate and Peter Mundy.

- A. Monserrate, Mundy, Ibn Battuta, Nikitin
- B. Monserrate, Nikitin, Ibn Battuta, Mundy
- C. Ibn Battuta, Nikitin, Monserrate, Mundy
- D. Nikitin, Ibn Battuta, Mundy, Monserrate

ANSWER: C. Ibn Battuta, Nikitin, Monserrate, Mundy

They visited in the fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries respectively.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

246. The Bretton Woods system was not associated with which feature?

- A. International Monetary Fund
- B. Post-war economic recovery
- C. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- D. Floating exchange rates

ANSWER: D. Floating exchange rates

Bretton Woods used fixed but adjustable exchange rates, not a general floating-rate system.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

247. Who was Senguttuvan?

- A. A Pandya ruler
- B. A Chola ruler
- C. A Satavahana minister
- D. A Chera ruler

ANSWER: D. A Chera ruler

Senguttuvan, or the Red Chera, is celebrated in Sangam and later Tamil tradition.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

248. Who wrote Ramacharita, a dvyashraya-kavya narrating two stories simultaneously?

- A. Subandhu
- B. Bhatti
- C. Sandhyakara Nandi
- D. Kamban

ANSWER: C. Sandhyakara Nandi

Sandhyakara Nandi's poem narrates both Rama's story and the career of the Pala ruler Ramapala.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

249. Which Act created the Board of Control over the East India Company's political administration?

- A. Regulating Act, 1773
- B. Pitt's India Act, 1784
- C. Charter Act, 1793
- D. Charter Act, 1813

ANSWER: B. Pitt's India Act, 1784

Pitt's India Act established dual control through the Board of Control and Court of Directors.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

250. Which Sikh Guru founded the Khalsa Panth?

- A. Guru Nanak
- B. Guru Arjan
- C. Guru Hargobind
- D. Guru Gobind Singh

ANSWER: D. Guru Gobind Singh

Guru Gobind Singh instituted the Khalsa at Anandpur Sahib in 1699.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

251. Which Five-Year Plan is known as the Mahalanobis Plan?

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Sixth

ANSWER: B. Second

The Second Plan used the Mahalanobis heavy-industry model.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

252. Which years are known as India's Plan Holiday or Annual Plans?

- A. 1956-57
- B. 1966-69
- C. 1975-76
- D. 1992-93

ANSWER: B. 1966-69

Three Annual Plans replaced a regular five-year plan from 1966 to 1969.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

253. Arrange from earliest to latest: intercontinental ballistic missiles, first communication satellite and the World Wide Web.

- A. ICBM, WWW, communication satellite
- B. WWW, ICBM, communication satellite
- C. Communication satellite, ICBM, WWW
- D. ICBM, communication satellite, WWW

ANSWER: D. ICBM, communication satellite, WWW

ICBMs emerged in the late 1950s, Telstar launched in 1962, and the World Wide Web was proposed in 1989.

NDA II 2025 | Official UPSC Paper

NDA History PYQs | 2026

254. How many book-author pairs are correct: Dayabhaga-Jimutavahana, Prithviraj Raso-Chand Bardai, Lilavati-Bhaskaracharya, Mitakshara-Vijnaneshvara?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. All four

ANSWER: D. All four

All four are correctly matched.

NDA I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

255. Arrange from earliest to latest: Vasco da Gama reaches Calicut, Magellan's circumnavigation begins, English East India Company formed, Dutch East India Company formed.

- A. Vasco, English Company, Magellan, Dutch Company
- B. Vasco, Magellan, English Company, Dutch Company
- C. English Company, Vasco, Magellan, Dutch Company
- D. English Company, Vasco, Dutch Company, Magellan

ANSWER: B. Vasco, Magellan, English Company, Dutch Company

The dates are 1498, 1519, 1600 and 1602 respectively.

NDA I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

256. How many invention-inventor pairs are correct: flying shuttle-John Kay, water frame-James Hargreaves, spinning jenny-Richard Arkwright?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. All three
- D. None

ANSWER: A. One

Only John Kay is correctly matched; Arkwright invented the water frame and Hargreaves the spinning jenny.

NDA I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

257. Regarding the Rowlatt Act: 1. Gandhi launched nationwide satyagraha. 2. It passed despite Indian opposition. 3. It gave sweeping powers to repress political activity. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: D. 1, 2 and 3

All three statements describe the 1919 legislation and the movement against it.

NDA I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

258. Regarding Britain's Industrial Revolution: 1. Banks could finance new industry. 2. Britain possessed a good transport network. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Finance and improving road, canal and later rail networks supported industrialisation.

NDA I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

259. Regarding the Russian Revolution: 1. Bloody Sunday began the 1905 revolutionary sequence. 2. Middle-class professionals formed the Union of Unions and demanded a constituent assembly. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C. Both 1 and 2

Both developments were central to the 1905 crisis in imperial Russia.

NDA I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

260. Who advocated India's first railways partly to facilitate army movement?

- A. Lord Dalhousie
- B. Lord Lytton
- C. Winston Churchill
- D. Lord Wellesley

ANSWER: A. Lord Dalhousie

Dalhousie's Railway Minute of 1853 stressed strategic as well as commercial value.

NDA I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

261. Where was the large well supplying Mohenjo-daro's Great Bath?

- A. Near the tank drain
- B. At the top of a staircase
- C. In an adjoining room on the eastern side
- D. At a bottom corner of the tank

ANSWER: C. In an adjoining room on the eastern side

The well stood in a room immediately east of the Great Bath.

NDA I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

262. Which are important Jain pilgrimage towns: 1. Moodabidri, 2. Madurai, 3. Sonagiri?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: C. 1 and 3 only

Moodabidri and Sonagiri are major Jain pilgrimage centres; Madurai is not classified similarly in this question.

NDA I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

263. Regarding Harappan bead production: 1. Carnelian, quartz and steatite were used. 2. Beads included cylindrical, barrel and disc forms. 3. Special stone drills pierced them. Which is correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: D. 1, 2 and 3

All three are supported by archaeological finds from Harappan craft centres.

NDA I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

264. Regarding Indian planning: 1. The Second Plan sought a socialistic pattern of society. 2. Three Annual Plans ran from 1966 to 1969. 3. The Ninth Plan failed to start on schedule in the sixtieth year of Independence. Which is correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: A. 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct; the Ninth Plan began in 1997, not in the sixtieth independence year.

NDA I 2026 | Official UPSC Paper

