

IAS34.COM Daily Quiz Solutions: Day 2

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding coinage of ancient India:

1. Karshapana were the earliest Indian coins bearing symbols on them.
2. These were issued only by merchant guilds and not by states.
3. Silver coins were generally called purana or dharana in ancient India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- The first documented coinage is deemed to start with 'Punch Marked' coins issued between the 7th-6th century BC and 1st century AD. These coins are called 'punch-marked' coins because of their manufacturing technique. Ancient texts refer to these early coins as karshapana, masha, pana and purana. **Silver coins were generally called purana or dharana.**
- **Mostly made of silver, these bear symbols, each of which was punched on the coin with a separate punch.**
- **Issued initially by merchant Guilds and later by States**, the coins represented a trade currency belonging to a period of intensive trade activity and urban development. They are broadly classified into two periods: the first period (attributed to the Janapadas or small local states) and the second period (attributed to the Imperial Mauryan period). The motifs found on these coins were mostly drawn from nature like the sun, various animal motifs, trees, hills etc. and some were geometrical symbols.

Q2. Consider the following pairs:

Ancient ports: Empires

1. Muziris: Cheras
2. Madurai: Pandyas
3. Tamralipti: Cholas

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, and 3

Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **The Cheras had Karur in the interior and Muziris**, the well-known ancient port, on the west coast.
- The **Cholas had Uraijur in the interior and Puhar** on the coromandel coast as their strongholds.
- Similarly, **the Pandyas had Madurai** and Korkar as their interior headquarters and port respectively
- Tamluk or Tamralipti was a city in ancient Bengal, located on the Bay of Bengal. It is believed that Tamralipti was the exit point of the **Mauryan trade route** for the south and south-east.

Q3. Which of the following pairs regarding the exchange system in the ancient South India are correctly matched?

1. Ulku: Toll on moving animals

2. Karukara: Tax paid by artisans

3. Kurietirppai: A type of loan in the barter system

which of the above statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, and 3

Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- Barter was the most common mode of transaction in the context of local exchange. Loan was not unknown in the barter system of the Tamil south. A loan of a fixed quantity of an article could be taken to be repaid in the same kind and quantity at a later date. **This was called Kurietirppai.**
- Toll was collected for merchandise moving on pack animals and carts. This toll was known as **Ulku**, a derivative of the Sanskrit term sub, meaning toll.
- Artisans had to pay tax on their products. This was known as **Karukara.**

Q4. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Inscriptions: Dynasties

1. Nasik Inscriptions: Western Kshatrap

2. Nanaghat Inscriptions: Satvahanas

3. Besnagar inscriptions: Shunga

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

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

Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **The Nasik and Nanaghat inscriptions are the major sources that gives detailed information about the Satavahana empire.** The achievements of Gutamiputra Satkarni were mentioned in Nasik Inscription that were composed by his mother Gautami Balasri. Nanaghat inscription was issued by Nayanika, the widowed queen of Satakarni, who performed Vedic sacrifices.
- The Heliodorus pillar is a stone column that was erected around 110 BCE in central India in Vidisha near modern Besnagar, by Heliodorus, a Greek ambassador of the Indo-Greek king Antialcidas to the court of the **Sunga king Bhagabhadra**. The pillar was surmounted by a sculpture of Garuda and was apparently dedicated by Heliodorus to the god Vasudeva in front of the temple of Vasudeva.

Q5. Consider the following pairs:

1. Akshapataladhyaksha: Accountant-General
2. Pautavadhyaksa: Superintendent of ports
3. Akaradhyaksha: Superintendent of weights and measures

Which of the above pairs is/are **incorrectly** matched?

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

Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- The **pautavadhyaksa or superintendent of weights and measures** exerted a strict control on maintaining standard weights and measures.
- The sannidhata was the chief custodian of the State treasury.
- The Mauryas in fact attached great importance to the assessment of land revenue and the highest officer in charge of this was the samaharta.
- Sitadhyaksa was the superintendent of agriculture who supervised the cultivation works.

- The **Akshapataladhyaksha** was the **Accountant-General** who was in charge of the two offices of currency and accounts.
- The **Akaradhyaksha** was the **superintendent of mining** and possessed scientific knowledge of mines, metallurgy, gems and precious stones. Lavananyadhyaksha was the salt superintendent, as the manufacture of salt was a government monopoly.
- Navadhyaksha was the Superintendent of Ports who controlled traffic and transit by waterways. The Panyadhyaksha was the controller of commerce who was in the charge of the control of supply, purchase and sale of commodities.

Q6. Which the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. Aihole Inscription: Ravikirti
2. Mandasor Pillar Inscription: Rudradaman
3. Girnar Rock inscription: Yashodharman

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

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

Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- The **Aihole** inscription was written by the **Ravikirti**, court poet of Chalukya King, Pulakeshi II. The inscription written in Sanskrit and it is in Kannada script mentioning about the defeat of Harshavardhana by Pulikeshi II.
- The **Mandasor** Pillar Inscriptions are discovered at an archaeological site at the village of Sondani about 4 kilometers south of Mandasaur (Mandasor) in northwestern Madhya Pradesh. These record the victory of Aulikara king **Yasodharman** over the Hun king Mihirakula.
- The Junagadh inscription or the **Girnar Rock inscription** contains inscriptions of Ashoka, **Rudradaman I** and Skandagupta.

Q7. Which of the following statements regarding the Harshvardhan are correct?

1. Aihole inscriptions mentions that he defeated Pulakasin II, the Chalukya ruler of Badami.
2. Nagananda and Priyadarsika are the Sanskrit plays written by him.
3. His administration had become more feudal and decentralized than that of Guptas.

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

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

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- Harsha ascended the throne of Thaneshwar around 606 A.D. Subsequently, he fought the rulers of Valabhi and Gurjaras in the west; Chalukyas in the Deccan; and Magadha and Gauda in the east. A eulogy or **prasasti** of Pulakasin II, placed on a temple wall at **Aihole**, also mentions Pulakesin's military success against Harshavardhana. Hiuen-tsang's account mentions that in spite of his victories over many kingdoms **he was not able to defeat Pulakasin II, the Chalukya ruler of Badami in Karnataka.**
- **Harsha governed his empire on the same lines as the Guptas did, except that his administration had become more feudal and decentralized.** Land grants continued to be made to priests for special services rendered to the state. In addition, Harsha is credited with the grant of land to the officers by charters.
- The Chinese account shows that Pataliputra was in a state of decline; so was Vaishali. On the other hand, Prayag and Kanauj in the doab had become important.
- Harsha was a literary figure. He wrote three plays viz. Ratnavali, **Nagananda and Priyadarsika.**, and he rewarded and patronized literary men including Banbhata.
- He followed a tolerant religious policy. A Saiva in his early years, he gradually became a great patron of Buddhism.

Q8. Consider the following statements:

1. They were the first rulers in India to issue Dynastic Coins.
2. Milinda Panho is the debate between Nagasena and a ruler of this empire.
3. They were the first to issue gold coins in India.

Which of the following empires is being described above?

- (a) Kushans
- (b) Indo-Scythians
- (c) Parthians
- (d) Indo-Bactrian

Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- The most famous **Indo-Greek ruler** was Menander (165-145 B.C.) He is also known by the name Milinda. He had his capital at Sakala (modern Sialkot) in Punjab, and he invaded the Ganga-Yamuna doab. He was converted to Buddhism by Nagasena, who is also known as Nagarjuna.

- Meander asked Nagasena many questions relating to Buddhism. These questions and Nagasena's answers were recorded in the form of a book known as **Milinda Panho**.
- The Indo-Bactrian rule is important in the history of India because of the large number of coins which the Greeks issued. **The Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue coins which can be definitely attributed to the king, called Dynastic Coins.**
- **The Indo-Greeks were the first to issue gold coins in India**, which increased in number under the Kushans. The Greek rule is also memorable on account of the introduction of Hellenistic art features in the north-west frontier of India, giving rise to the Gandhara art.

Q9. Which the following statements regarding Satavahana dynasty are correct?

1. They overthrew the Shunga dynasty of Magadha.
2. They started the practice of granting tax-free villages to brahmanas which reached at the zenith during Gupta period.
3. Despite being on the march of triumphant Brahmanism, they promoted Buddhism also.
4. The official language of the Satavahanas was Prakrit with Brahmi Script.

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

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

Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- The Satavahanas were the early rulers of the region between the rivers, Godavari and the Krishna. They were also referred to as the Andhras. They soon brought under their control, both the Western-Deccan and Central India. The dates of their coming in to power is contentious and variously put between 270 BC to 30 BC. **The origin of the dynasty is uncertain, but according to the Puranas, their first king, Simuka, overthrew the Kanva dynasty.**
- The Satavahanas kept some of the administrative units found in Ashokan times Their district was called ahara, as it was known in the time of Asoka. Their officials were known as amatyas and mahamatras, as they were known in Maurya times.
- The Satavahana rulers claimed to have been brahmanas and they represented the march of triumphant Brahmanism. **However, the Satavahana rulers promoted Buddhism** by granting land to the monks in their kingdom the Mahayana form of Buddhism commanded considerable following, especially in the artisan class. **The Satavahanas started the practice of granting tax-free villages to brahmanas and Buddhist monks.**
- **The official language of the Satavahanas was Prakrit. All inscriptions were composed in this language and written in the Brahmi Script.**

Q10. Which of the following were the causes for the fall of the Gupta empire?

1. Independence of feudatories
2. Decline of foreign trade
3. Rise of Satvahanas
4. Invasions led by the White Huns

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

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

Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **Huna Invasions:** The Huna were a Central Asian Xionite tribe that consisted of four hordes viz. Northern Huna, also known as the Black Huns; Southern Huna, the Red Huns; Eastern Huna, the Celestial Huns; and the **White Huns**, the Western Huna. The White Huns, those who invaded the Gupta Empire during the reign of Kumaragupta, were also known as the Hephthalites, and caused great damage to the failing Gupta Empire. Skandagupta died in 467 CE, and was followed onto the throne by his half-brother, Purugupta, who ruled from 467-473 CE. Thereafter came a succession of weak kings, beginning with Kumaragupta II from 473-476 CE, followed by Budhagupta, the son of Purugupta. The Hephthalites broke through the Gupta military defenses in the northwest in the 480s, during the reign of Budhagupta, and by 500 CE much of the empire in northwest was overrun by the Huna. The empire thereafter disintegrated into numerous regional kingdoms, ruled by chieftains.
- **Independence of feudatories:** Towards the end of the fifth century A.D. and beginning of the sixth century A.D. taking advantage of the weak Gupta emperors, many regional powers asserted their authority, and in due course declared their independence.
- **Decline of trade:** Their income may have further been affected by the **decline of foreign trade**. The migration of a guild of silk weavers from Gujarat to Malwa in A.D. 473 and their adoption of non-productive professions show that there was not much demand for cloth produced by them. The advantages from Gujarat trade gradually disappeared.

Q11. Alliance for multilateralism is an initiative of which of the following countries?

- (a) USA and Canada.
- (b) France and Germany.
- (c) U.K and Italy.

(d) Russia and China

Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- The Alliance for Multilateralism, launched on 2 April 2019 by the **French and German Foreign Ministers**, is an informal alliance of countries that are convinced that multilateralism founded on respect for international law is the only reliable guarantee for international stability and peace.
- India has also joined this initiative.

Q12. Year 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of coming into effect of nuclear non – proliferation treaty. Regarding this, consider the following statements:

1. India along with Israel and Pakistan are the 3 countries which never signed the NPT.
2. India is a signatory of comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT).
3. 48-member nuclear supplier group is formed in response to Indian nuclear test of 1974.
4. India is a non-signatory of outer space treaty.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **India is non-signatory of NPT and CTBT due to its discriminatory nature however India signs outer space treaty which prohibits placement of nuclear weapons in outer space.**

Q13. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Sabang: Singapore
(b) Duqm: Yeman
(c) Kyaukpyu: Thailand
(d) Agalega: Mauritius

Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **Sabang and Duqm are ports in Indonesia and Oman respectively** in which Indian Navy has been granted access.
- **Kyaukpyu is a town in Rakhine state in western Myanmar** which is a proposed site for China multibillion-dollar deep sea port.

Q14. Which of the following statements is **incorrect**?

- Tiger Triumph is the first tri- services military exercise between India and Russia.
- Yudh – abhyas is a joint military exercise between Indian and US armies.
- Vajra – Prahar is a joint India – USA special forces exercise in area of counter- terrorism.
- Malabar is Indo-US naval exercise joined by Japan as permanent member in 2015.

Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Tiger triumph is a tri services exercise between India and USA.** Previously India held only Indra tri service exercise with Russia.

Q15. Consider the following statements:

- UMMID is an MOHFW initiative design on concept of prevention is better than cure.
- In India's urban areas, congenital malformations and genetic disorders are the third most common cause of mortality in newborns.
- NIDAN Kendra are to be started under UMMID initiative for counselling and pre-natal testing.
- Hemophilia and Sickle cell anaemia are genetic disorder.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- 1 and 3 only
- 1 and 4 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- All of the above

Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **DBT (Department of Biotechnology), under the Ministry of Science and Technology, has started the UMMID (Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorder) initiative.**