



### 30 Days Revision Module Day 6 - Art and Culture (UPSC Prelims 2021)

1) Consider the following statements about Temple Architecture

1. The most characteristic feature is that they grow extremely complex with many projecting angles emerging from the previously square temple.
2. Its plan looks familiar to a star and thus known as Stellate Plan.
3. They are made out of soapstone, a relatively soft stone where sculptures were made intricately.

The above statements describe which of the following architecture?

- a. Chola Temples
- b. Pandya Temples
- c. Vijayanagara Temples
- d. Hoysala Temples

Answer : d

- The Hoysalas of Karnataka grew to prominence in South India with the waning of Chola and Pandya power.
- The temples at Belur, Halebid and Somnathpuram were famous.
- All the given statements describe this temple architecture.
- The Hoysaleswara temple (Lord of the Hoysalas) at Halebid in Karnataka was built in dark schist stone by the Hoysala King in 1150.
- They are sometimes called hybrid or vesara as their unique style seems neither completely dravida nor nagara.

2) Consider the following pairs

1. Qasbah - Seat of a Local notable
2. Ganj - Small Market
3. Puram - Village

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer : d

- All these terms related to settlement.
- Qasbah - A small town in the countryside, often the seat of a local notable.
- Ganj - A small fixed market.
- Both Qasbah and Ganj dealt in cloth, fruit, vegetables and milk products. They provided for noble families and the army.
- Pet - A Tamil word meaning settlement
- Puram - Used to denote a village.

3) Arrange the following major textual traditions in a chronological order

1. Ashtadhyayi of Panini
2. Tamil Sangam Literature
3. Natyashastra of Bharata
4. Compilation of Jaina Works

Choose the correct option

- a. 1-2-3-4
- b. 2-1-3-4
- c. 1-2-4-3
- d. 2-1-4-3

Answer : a

1. 500 BCE - Ashtadhyayi of Panini, a work on Sanskrit grammar
2. 200 BCE - 200 CE - Tamil Sangam Literature
3. 300 CE - Natyashastra of Bharata, a work on dramaturgy in Sanskrit
4. 400 - 500 CE - Compilation of Jaina works in Prakrit at Vallabhi.

4) With reference to Ancient History, the term 'Cairn Circles', 'Menhir', 'Cists' are referred to

- a. Coins found in the Paleolithic Sites in the South
- b. Stone tools of Mesolithic Age
- c. Megalithic Monuments
- d. Different types of Pottery from Sangam Age

Answer : c

- Recently, the State Department of Archaeology, Chennai has identified 250 cairn-circles from the Kodumanal excavation site in Tamil Nadu.
- Cairn-circles are the prehistoric stone row which is a linear arrangement of parallel megalithic standing stones.
- Menhir - Monolithic Pillar-like stones erected/planted vertically into the ground in memory of the dead.
- Cists are stone enclosures buried under the earth

5) The World's oldest known cave painting has recently been discovered from

- a. Madhya Pradesh, India
- b. Sulawesi, Indonesia
- c. Songhua River basin, China
- d. Patagonia, Argentina

Answer : b

- The world's oldest known cave painting was discovered in the limestone cave of Leang Tedongnge of Indonesia.
- The painting made using red ochre pigment depicts a wild boar endemic to the Sulawesi island of Indonesia.
- The painting of the Sulawesi warty pig seems to be the world's oldest surviving representational image of an animal.
- It was dated using a method called **U-series isotope analysis**.
- This analysis uses calcium carbonate deposits, also called 'cave popcorn', that form naturally on the cave wall surface to determine its age.
- It is dated that the minimum age of the painting to be around 45,500 years, which means the

painting was made before this.

6) The term 'Dickinsonia' recently in news is related to

- a. Engravings in Edakkal Caves
- b. Jataka stories in Sanchi Stupa
- c. A new kind of Pottery from Adichanallur Excavation
- d. Fossils from Bhimbetka Caves

Answer : d

- Researchers have discovered fossils of the earliest known living animal, 550-million-year-old 'Dickinsonia' in the Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka.
- The fossils were found in the roof of the 'Auditorium Cave' at Bhimbetka.
- These are the only Dickinsonia fossils available in the country, and are similar to those seen in southern Australia.
- Dickinsonia is an extinct genus of basal animal that lived during the late Ediacaran period in what is now Australia, Russia and Ukraine.

7) Consider the following statements about Mongolian Kanjur

1. It is a Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes written in manuscripts.
2. It has been translated from Prakrit language and written in Tibetan language.
3. National Mission for Manuscripts under Ministry of Culture has taken up the project of re-printing all 108 volumes of manuscripts by 2022.

Which of the Statements given above are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3



Answer : c

- The Ministry of Culture has taken up the project of reprinting 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur by March 2022 under the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM).
- It is a Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes and is considered to be the most important religious text in Mongolia.
- It is a source of providing a cultural identity to Mongolia.
- In the Mongolian language 'Kanjur' means 'Concise Orders'- the words of Lord Buddha in particular.
- It has been translated from Tibetan and is written in classical Mongolian.

8) Consider the following statements about Bhaona

1. It is a mythology-based theatrical performance popular in the State of Assam.
2. It uses both the language of Sanskrit and Assamese.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : c

- It is a mythology-based theatrical performance to convey spiritualism in the Vaishnav mould.

- It is a presentation of the Ankia Naat of Assam.
- It was created by the saint Srimanta Sankaradeva five centuries ago.
- In Bhaona cultural glimpses of Assam, Bengal Orissa, Mathura and Brindavan can be seen.
- The Sutradhaar, or narrator begins the story, first in Sanskrit and then in either Brajboli or Assamese.
- [Brajboli or Brajavali is a literary language developed by Sankaradeva that was limited to theatrical usage.]

9) Consider the following pair of Toys and corresponding States

1. Nirmal Toys - Andhra Pradesh
2. Channapatna Toys - Karnataka
3. Ettikoppaka Toys - Telangana

Which of the above pairs are **not correctly** matched?

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

Answer : b

**Nirmal Toys** -They are exclusively made in Nirmal town in Adilabad district of Telangana

1. It is beautiful assimilation of Indian and Mughal art - used Ajanta floral and combines with Mughal miniature.
2. The artisans are called Naqqash, they came from Rajasthan in 17th Century.

Toys of Andhra Pradesh -

1. **Kondapalli Toys** - Also Known as Bommala Koluvu and its style is a mix of Islamic and Rajasthani art.
2. **Ettikoppakka Bommalu** - Received its GI tag in 2017 and also known as Turned wood Lacquer craft.
3. **Channapatna Toys** - It is a famous toy from the State of Karnataka and it received GI tag.
  - The toys have ensured that innovation and being eco-friendly become the hallmark of this locally known Gombegala Ooru (toy-town)
  - The Hereditary artists are known as 'Chitragars'.
  - The wood, primarily used was 'ivory wood, though rose and Sandalwood were also used.

10) Consider the following statements about Reclining Buddha

1. It is an iconographic depiction meant to show that all beings have the potential to be awakened and be released from the cycle of death and rebirth.
2. It was first depicted in the Mathura School of Art and peaked during Kushana Period.
3. In this, Buddha is shown as lying on his right side, his head resting on a cushion or on his right elbow.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only

d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer : c

- A Reclining Buddha statue or image represents the Buddha during his last illness, about to enter Parinirvana (483 BC), the stage of great salvation after death that can only be attained by enlightened souls.
- This popular iconographic depiction shows that all beings can be awakened and be released from the cycle of death and rebirth.
- It was first depicted in Gandhara art, which began in the period between 50 BC and 75 AD and peaked during the Kushana period from the 1st to 5th centuries AD.
- The World's largest Reclining Buddha is the 600-foot Winsein Tawya Buddha built in 1992 in Mawlamyine, Myanmar.
- India's largest Reclining Buddha to be installed at the Buddha International Welfare Mission temple, Bodh Gaya was delayed due to Covid-19 pandemic.

11) Consider the following statements about Lingaraj Temple

1. It is one of the earliest structural temple still standing in its original condition, located in Aihole, Karnataka.
2. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
3. It is built in red sandstone in Kalinga Style of Architecture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer : c

- Ekamravan Kshetra or Lingaraj Temple was built in 11th century AD, is dedicated to Lord Shiva, it is the largest temple of Bhubaneswar.
- It is believed to have been built by the Somvanshi King Yayati I.
- It is built in red stone and is a classic example of Kalinga style of architecture.

12) Consider the following statements about Ramappa Temple

1. It was built under the patronage of Kakatiya Ruler Kakati Ramappa Deva, dates back to 1213 AD in the State of Telangana.
2. The sculptures are carved out of hard stones, which showcase regional dance customs.
3. Its unique characteristic is the use of "floating bricks" to reduce the weight of the roof structures.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 3 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer : c

- Ramappa Temple was constructed in 1213 AD during the reign of the Kakatiya Empire by Recherla Rudra, a general of Kakatiya king Ganapati Deva. The presiding deity here is Ramalingeswara Swamy.
- The temple is neither named after the presiding deity, Rudreshwara, nor the general who commissioned the project, but, uniquely in India, after the sculptor who built it.
- The temple is located at the foothills of a forested area, close to the shores of the Ramappa Cheruvu, a Kakatiya-built water reservoir.
- The temple rests on a foundation that uses sandbox technology, with red sandstone and black

basalt used to construct the main temple.

- It uses light bricks used for the gopuram or cupola which are called “floating bricks”.
- It stands on a 6-ft high star-shaped platform with walls, pillars and ceilings adorned with intricate carvings that attest to the unique skill of the Kakatiyan sculptors.

13) The book “The Monuments of Sanchi” is written by

- a. John Marshall
- b. R.E. M Wheeler
- c. Alexander Cunningham
- d. James Fergusson

Answer : a

The Monuments of Sanchi is written by John Marshall and Alfred Foucher in the year 1914.

14) She is a pioneering figure in Bengali theatre in the late 19th and early 20th century. She is one of the prime movers behind the setting up of the Star Theatre (1883) and serialised her autobiography “Amar Katha”.

The above description describes which of the following personalities

- a. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay
- b. Durgabai Deshmukh
- c. Binodini Dasi
- d. Aruna Asaf Ali

Answer : c



**SHANKAR**  
**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*

**Binodini Dasi (1863-1941)**

- She is a pioneering figure in Bengali theatre in the late 19th and early 20th century.
- She worked closely with the dramatist and director Girish Chandra Ghosh (1844-1912).
- She was one of the prime movers behind the setting up of the Star Theatre (1883) in Calcutta.
- She serialised her autobiography Amar Katha (My Story) between 1910 and 1913.

15) Consider the following statements about Ajivikas

1. They have been described as fatalist, those who believe that everything is predetermined.
2. Ashoka patronised the Lomas Rishi Cave in Madhya Pradesh for the Ajivika Sect.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : a

- Ajivikas have often been described as fatalists, those who believe that everything is predetermined.
- Ashoka patronised the Lomas Rishi Cave carved at Barabar hills near Gaya in Bihar.

16) The Prakrit Text “Uttaradhyayana Sutta” describes how a queen named Kamalavati tried to persuade her husband to renounce the world. It belongs to which of the following sects/philosophy?

- a. Buddhism

- b. Jainism
- c. Ajivikas
- d. Lokayatas

Answer : b

- The teachings of Mahavira were recorded by his disciples which were often in the form of stories. One of which is a Prakrit text known as the "Uttaradhyayana Sutta".

17) The Buddhist text "Sutta Pitaka" contains the conversation between which of the following personalities

- a. Ashoka and Buddha
- b. Ajatashatru, the ruler of Magadha and Buddha
- c. King Milinda, and a learned monk Nagasena
- d. Mahakasyapa and Ashvagosha

Answer : b

- In Sutta Pitaka, conversation between King Ajatasattu, son and successor of King Bimbisara of Magadha and the Buddha is narrated.
- Its sections are Digha Nikaya, Majjhima Nikaya, Samyutta Nikaya, Anguttara Nikaya, Khuddaka Nikaya.
- He posed the following question to many leading Indian spiritual teachers: What is the benefit of living a contemplative life? After being dissatisfied with the answers provided by these other teachers, the king posed this question to the Buddha whose answer motivated the king to become a lay follower of the Buddha.

18) The Buddhist text "Therigatha" is considered unique because

- a. It is a collection of stories about the miraculous powers of Buddha
- b. It is the biography of Buddha passed on orally and compiled in 1 BC
- c. It is a collection of works composed by Bhikkhunis
- d. It contains the architectural designs of Chaityas and Viharas

Answer : c

- Therigatha is a unique Buddhist text, part of the Sutta Pitaka, is a collection of verses composed by Bhikkhunis.
- It provides an insight into women's social and spiritual experiences.

19) Consider the following statements about Tholpavakkoothu

1. It is a form of string puppet popular in the State of Kerala.
2. It is performed at the specially constructed theatre called Koothu Madam in front of the Bhagavati temple.
3. It uses Tamil epic Kambaramayana as its basic text.
4. It is also known as Nizhalkkoothu and Olakkoothu.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- a. 1, 2 and 4 only
- b. 2, 3 and 4 only
- c. 1, 3 and 4 only
- d. All of the above

Answer : b

- Tholpavakkoothu is a shadow leather puppet theatre form, popular in the Palakkad and neighbouring regions.

- It is preserved as a family tradition by the Pulavars.
- For the first time, the famous shadow leather puppets will be shown with the help of robots.
- The first such robotic leather puppet was installed at the Palakkad District Heritage Museum.

20) Consider the following Indus Valley Civilization sites

1. Suktagendor
2. Balakot
3. Nageshwar
4. Ganweriwala
5. Lothal
6. Kot Diji

Which of the above sites are located near the coast?

- a. 1, 2 and 4 only
- b. 1, 2 and 6 only
- c. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- d. All of the above

Answer : c

Except Kot Diji and Ganweriwala, all other sites are located near the coast

Source : Themes in Indian History - Part I



SHANKAR  
IAS PARLIAMENT  
Information is Empowering

[Click here to download Target 2021 Compilation of Art and Culture](#)