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Ancient History Part 1

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1. During the Indus Valley Civilization, 'Girdles' were worn by _____.

सिंधु घाटी सभ्यता के दौरान, ' Girdles (कमरबंद)' _____ द्वारा पहने जाते थे।

- a) Men/पुरुष
- b) Children/बच्चे
- c) Women/महिलाएं
- d) Both (a) & (b)/दोनों (a) और (b)

Ans: c

Solution:

During the **Indus Valley Civilization**, Girdles, earrings and anklets were worn only by **women**. Both men and women wore ornaments like necklaces, fillets, armlets and finger rings.

2. The ancient city 'Mandu or Mandogarh' is located in which state of India?

प्राचीन नगर 'माण्डू या मंडोगढ़' भारत के किस राज्य में स्थित है?

- a) Madhya Pradesh/मध्यप्रदेश
- b) Maharashtra/महाराष्ट्र
- c) Rajasthan/राजस्थान
- d) Uttarakhand/उत्तराखंड

Ans: a

Solution:

According to a Sanskrit inscription of 555 A.D, the History of Mandu goes back to the 6th century when it was a fortified city. It was later named Mandhavgarh in the 10th or 11th century, by the rulers of the Parmara kingdom. In the year 1261, even the capital of the Parmaras was transferred from Dhar to Mandu.

Mandu, also called Mandava or Mandogarh, ruined city, southwestern **Madhya Pradesh** state, central India. It lies at an elevation of 2,079 feet (634 metres) above sea level in the Vindhya Range, 38 miles (60 km) southwest of Indore.

3. Banawali is an archaeological site belonging to the Indus Valley Civilization situated on the left side of which of the following ancient Indian River?

बनावली सिंधु घाटी सभ्यता से संबंधित एक पुरातात्विक स्थल है जो निम्नलिखित में से किस प्राचीन भारतीय नदी के बाईं ओर स्थित है?

- a) Vitastata/वितास्ताता
- b) Askini/अस्किनी
- c) Saraswati/सरस्वती
- d) Purushni/पुरुशनी

Ans: c

Solution:

Banawali is an archaeological site belonging to Indus Valley Civilization period in Haryana, India, and is located about 120 km northeast of Kalibangan and 16 km from Fatehabad. Banawali, which is earlier called Vanawali, is on the left banks of the dried-up **Saraswati** River. It was built in the upper-middle valley, as opposed to Kalibangan, which was built in the lower valley.

4. What was the region of famous ancient "Mesopotamian civilizations"?

4. प्रसिद्ध प्राचीन "मेसोपोटामिया सभ्यताओं" का क्षेत्र कौन-सा था?

- a) Afghanistan and Pakistan/ अफगानिस्तान और पाकिस्तान
- b) Saudi Arabia and Oman/ सऊदी अरब और ओमान
- c) Iraq and Kuwait/ इराक और कुवैत
- d) Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan/ किर्गिस्तान और ताजिकिस्तान

Ans: c

Solution:

Mesopotamian civilizations formed on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in what is today **Iraq** and **Kuwait**.

Early civilizations began to form around the time of the Neolithic Revolution—12000 BCE.

Some of the major Mesopotamian civilizations include the Sumerian, Assyrian, Akkadian, and Babylonian civilizations.

Its modern name comes from the Greek for middle—mesos—and river—potamos—and literally means a "country between two rivers." Those two rivers are the Tigris and Euphrates.

5. The theory of "Anekantavada" is associated with which religion?

अनेकांतवाद का सिद्धांत किस धर्म से संबंधित है?

- a) Sikhism/सिख
- b) Buddhism/ बुद्ध धर्म
- c) Jainism/ जैन धर्म
- d) Vaishnavism/ वैष्णव

Ans: c

Solution:

Anekantavada refers to the **Jain doctrine** about metaphysical truths that emerged in ancient India. It states that the ultimate truth and reality is complex and has multiple aspects.

6. Tripartite struggle during the 8th century AD was a struggle among three major empires of India namely the Palas, the Pratiharas and the Rastrakutas for control of which region?

8वीं शताब्दी ईस्वी के दौरान त्रिपक्षीय संघर्ष भारत के तीन प्रमुख साम्राज्यों अर्थात् पलास, प्रतिहारों और राष्ट्रकूटों के बीच किस क्षेत्र पर नियंत्रण के लिए संघर्ष था?

- a) Delhi/दिल्ली
- b) Magadha/मगध
- c) Malwa/मालवा
- d) Kannauj/कन्नौज

Ans: d

Solution:

Tripartite struggle:

During the 8th century AD, a struggle for control over the **Kannauj** took place among three major empires of India namely the **Palas**, the **Pratiharas** and the **Rastrakutas**.

The Palas ruled the eastern parts of India while the Pratiharas controlled the western India (Avanti-Jalaor region). The Rastrakutas ruled over the Deccan region of India. The struggle for control over Kannuj among these three dynasties is known as the **tripartite struggle** in Indian history.

7. The first Tirthankara of the Jains was _____.

जैनियों के पहले तीर्थंकर _____ थे।

- a) Anantnatha/ अनंतनाथ
- b) Rishabhanath/ ऋषभनाथ
- c) Sambhavanatha/ संभावनानाथ
- d) Arishtanemi/ अरिष्टनेमि

Ans: b

Solution:

Rishabhanatha was the first of the 24 Tirthankaras of Jainism. His name comes from the series of 14 auspicious dreams that his mother had, in which a **bull** (rishabha) appeared, before his birth.

8. The Five Rathas or Panch Rathas are located in which city?

पांच रथ या पंच रथ किस शहर में स्थित हैं?

- a) Thanjavur/ तंजावुर
- b) Madurai/ मदुरई
- c) Khajuraho/ खजुराहो
- d) Mahabalipuram/ महाबलीपुरम

Ans: d

Solution:

Pancha Rathas is a monument complex at **Mahabalipuram**, Tamil Nadu. Pancha Rathas is an example of monolithic Indian rock-cut architecture. The complex was initially thought to have carved during the reign of **Pallava King Narasimhavarman I** (630–668 CE).

9. Harshavardhana was associated with which religion?

हर्षवर्धन किस धर्म से जुड़े थे?

- a) Shaivism/शैव
- b) Buddhism/बुद्ध
- c) Both (a) and (b)/दोनों (a) और (b)
- d) Vaishnavism/वैष्णव

Ans: c

Solution:

All religions were patronized under **Harshavardhana's** reign. He was a **Shaivite (Shaivism)**, but later **Hiuen Tsang** converted him to **Mahayana Buddhism**.

Hiuen Tsang who visited Harshavardhana's empire noted that Buddhism was declining in India while Brahmanism was on rise.

10. King Harshavardhana ascended the throne of Thaneshwar and Kannauj on the death of his brother, _____.

राजा हर्षवर्धन अपने भाई, _____ की मृत्यु पर थानेश्वर और कन्नौज के सिंहासन पर बैठे।

- a) Indravardhana/इंद्रवर्धन
- b) Suryavardhana/सूर्यवर्धन
- c) Rajyavardhana/राज्यवर्धन
- d) Chandravardhana/चंद्रवर्धन

Ans: c

Solution:

With the commencement of the 7th century, Harshavardhana (606-647 A.D.) ascended the throne of Thaneshwar and Kannauj on the death of his brother, **Rajyavardhana**. By 612 Harshavardhana consolidated his kingdom in northern India.

11. Which of the following rivers was known as Purushani in the Vedic period?

निम्नलिखित में से किस नदी को वैदिक काल में पुरुषनी के नाम से जाना जाता था?

- a) Sutlej/सतलुज
- b) Chenab/चेनाब
- c) Ravi/रवि
- d) Beas/ब्यास

Ans: c

Solution:

Ravi is one of the major five rivers/tributaries of Indus. The Ravi was known as Parushani or Iravati to Indians in Vedic times and Hydraotes to the Ancient Greeks. It originates in the Himalayas in the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh following a north-westerly course.

12. In the 4th century BCE, the capital of Magadha was shifted to _____.

चौथी शताब्दी ईसा पूर्व में मगध की राजधानी को _____ स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया था।

- a) Varanasi/वाराणसी
- b) Pataliputra/पाटलिपुत्र
- c) Panipat/पानीपत
- d) Mathura/मथुरा

Ans: b

Solution:

In the 4th C BC, Magadhan princes shifted their capital to **Pataliputra** given its excellent communications. It was situated at the confluence of the Ganges, the Gandak and the Son and a fourth river Ghagra joined the Ganges not far from Pataliputra.

13. The Fourteen Purva are the teachings of which religion?

चौदह पूर्व किस धर्म के उपदेश हैं?

- a) Buddhism/बुद्ध
- b) Nath Panth/नाथ पंथ
- c) Sanatan Dharma/सनातन धर्म
- d) Jainism/जैन

Ans: d

Solution:

The Fourteen Purva translated as ancient or prior knowledge, are a large body of **Jain scriptures that was preached by all Tirthankaras** (omniscient teachers) of Jainism encompassing the entire gamut of knowledge available in this universe.

The persons having the knowledge of purvas were given an exalted status of **Shrutakevali** or "scripturally omniscient persons".

Both the Jain traditions, Svetambara and Digambara hold that all the fourteen purvas have been lost.

14. Which of the following is NOT correct according to the 'Doctrines of Jainism'?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा 'जैन धर्म के सिद्धांतों' के अनुसार सही नहीं है?

- a) Non-injury to a living being/ किसी जीव को क्षति न पहुँचाना
- b) Do not speak a lie/ झूठ मत बोलो
- c) Do not steal'/ चोरी मत करो
- d) Do acquire property/ संपत्ति अर्जित करें

Ans: d

Solution:

Five Doctrines of Jainism

Ahimsa: Non-injury to a living being

Satya: Do not speak a lie

Asteya: Do not steal

Aparigraha: Do **not** acquire property

Brahmacharya: Observe continence

15. Which of the following regions of ancient India was ruled by King Dahir?

प्राचीन भारत के निम्नलिखित क्षेत्रों में से किस पर राजा दाहिर का शासन था?

- a) Magadh/मगध
- b) Malwa/मालवा
- c) Kashmir/कश्मीर

d) Sindh/सिंध

Ans: d

Solution:

King Dahir of **Sindh**, who was defeated by Mohammad bin Qasim, belonged to **Chach Dynasty**.

The **Chach Nama** was written by **Ali Kufi**, which is one of the main historical sources for the **history of Sindh** in the seventh to eighth centuries CE, written in Persian.

16. Which of the following Harappan Sites is known as 'the mound of the dead'?

निम्नलिखित में से किस हड़प्पा स्थल को 'मृतकों का टीला(the mound of the dead)' कहा जाता है?

- a) Harappa/हड़प्पा
- b) Chanhudaro/चन्हुदारो
- c) Kalibangan/कालीबंगन
- d) Mohenjodaro/मोहनजोदड़ो

Ans: d

Solution:

Mohenjo-daro or **Mohenjodaro** is a group of mounds and ruins on the right bank of the **Indus River**, northern Sindh province, southern Pakistan.

The name Mohenjo-daro is reputed to signify "*the mound of the dead*." The archaeological importance of the site was first recognized in 1922, one year after the discovery of Harappa.

Mohenjo-daro was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in **1980**.

Important Findings at Mohenjodaro are: **Great bath**, Granary Bronze, **dancing girl**, Seal of Pasupati Mahadeva, Steatite statue of beard man and a piece of woven cotton.

17. Mathura school of art is a Buddhist visual art form, which was flourished during the reign of _____.

मथुरा स्कूल ऑफ आर्ट बौद्ध दृश्य कला का एक रूप है, जो _____ के शासनकाल के दौरान विकसित हुआ था।

- a) Pulakeshin II/पुलकेशिन II

- b) Rajendra Chola I/ राजेंद्र चोल I
- c) Kanishka/ कनिष्क
- d) Harshavardhana/ हर्षवर्धन

Ans: c

Solution:

Mathura school of art is a Buddhist visual art form that flourished in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, as a commercial and pilgrimage centre.

During the reign of **Kushan emperor Kanishka** in the first century AD, the Mathura School of Art flourished. During the Gupta period (6th or 7th century), this art achieved its pinnacle.

18. Who built the famous Martand Sun Temple?

प्रसिद्ध मार्तंड सूर्य मंदिर का निर्माण किसने करवाया था?

- a) Avanati Varmana/ अवनति वर्मन
- b) Lalitaditya/ ललितादित्य
- c) Durlabh Vardhana/ दुर्लभ वर्धन
- d) Samgramapida II/ संग्रामपिडा II

Ans: b

Solution:

The Martand Sun Temple is located in Mattan near the city of Anantnag in the Kashmir Valley of Jammu and Kashmir. It was built by **King Lalitaditya** of the Karkota dynasty in the 8th century.

It is one of the oldest sun temples in India. It is considered an example of Kashmiri architectural skills built in a square field using limestone and pillars in Greek patterns. It was destroyed on the order of Muslim ruler Sikander Butshikan in the 15th century.

19. In which of the following township of the Harappan Civilization, a cylindrical seal is found with five Harappan characters on one side and a symbol of an alligator on the other?

हड़प्पा सभ्यता की निम्नलिखित में से किस बस्ती में एक बेलनाकार मुहर मिली है जिसके एक ओर पांच हड़प्पा के अक्षर और दूसरी ओर एक घड़ियाल का प्रतीक है?

- a) Daimabad/दैमाबाद
- b) Farmana/फरमाना
- c) Rakhigarhi/रखिगढ़ी
- d) Kalibangan/कालीबंगन

Ans: c

Solution:

Rakhigarhi is an archaeological site belonging to the Harappan Civilization. It is located in the Hisar district of Haryana. It was first excavated in 1998-2001 by Amarendra Nath of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). It is a part of the mature phase of the Indus Valley Civilisation, dating to 2600-1900 BCE.

Key findings:

- A cylindrical seal with 5 Harappan characters on one side and a symbol of an alligator on the other.
- Pieces of copper and gold jewellery, terracotta toys, besides thousands of earthen pots and seals.
- The ceramic industry represented by redware.
- Recently, a 5000 year old jewellery making factory is found.

20. Who was the founder of the Chandela dynasty of Jejakbhukti?

जेजाकभुक्ति के चंदेल वंश के संस्थापक कौन थे?

- a) Kokkala I/ कोककल I
- b) Jayasimha/जयसिम्हा
- c) Nannuk/नन्नुक
- d) Vasudeva/वासुदेव

Ans: c

Solution:

Nannuk was the founder of the Chandela dynasty of Jejakbhukti. He was the founder of Gujara-Pratihara. The Chandela dynasty ruled between the 9th and the 13th centuries AD in the Bundelkhand region, popularly known by the name of Jejakabhukti.

21. Who wrote 'Basava Purana'?

'बसव पुराण' किसने लिखा था?

- a) Harihara/हरिहर
- b) Palkuriki Somanatha/ पलकुरिकी सोमनाथ
- c) Allasani Peddana/ अल्लासानी पेद्दाना
- d) Bammera Pothana/ बममेरा पोथाना

Ans: b

Solution:

Basava Purana is a sacred text of the Lingayat community. It was written by **Palkuriki Somanatha** in the 13th century. It narrates the life story of philosopher and social reformer Basaveshwara, the founder of the Lingayat sect.

22. Where is Dhamekh Stupa, which was built by King Ashoka?

धमेख स्तूप कहाँ है, जिसे राजा अशोक ने बनवाया था?

- a) Sarnath/सारनाथ
- b) Leh/लेह
- c) Champaran/चंपारण
- d) Barhut/बरहुत

Ans: a

Solution:

Dhamekh Stupa is situated in **Sarnath**, Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh. It was built by Mauryan King Ashoka in 249 CE and then by his successors in 500 CE. It is believed that this is the place where Buddha gave his first sermon to his first five disciples.

23. The Tamil epic titled 'Silappadikaram' was authored by who among the following?

'सिलप्पादिकारम' शीर्षक वाला तमिल महाकाव्य निम्नलिखित में से किसके द्वारा लिखा गया था?

- a) Sittalai Sattanar/ सित्तलाई सत्तानार
- b) Perudevanar/ पेरुदेवनार
- c) Ilango Adigal/ इलांगो अडिगल

d) Nendujelian/ नेंदुजेलियन

Ans: c

Solution:

The Tamil epic titled '**Silappadikaram**' was authored by **Ilango Adigal**. It deals with the story of Kovalam and Madhavi of Kaveripattinam. It is known as 'Iliyaad of Tamil poetry'.

24. What was the capital of Kalchuri of Chedi?

छेदी के कलचुरी की राजधानी क्या थी ?

- a) Kannauj/कन्नौज
- b) Tripuri/त्रिपुरी
- c) Malkhand/मलखंड
- d) Dhillika/दिल्लिका

Ans: b

Solution:

The capital of Kalchuri of Chedi was **Tripuri** near Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. The Kalchuri dynasty was founded by Kokalla I. It ruled over Central India parts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Malwa, and Maharashtra from the 10th-12th century.

25. Which dynasty ruler built the famous monastery at Odantapuri?

ओदंतपुरी में प्रसिद्ध मठ का निर्माण किस वंश के शासक ने किया था?

- a) Pala/पाला
- b) Chalukya/चालुक्य
- c) Pratihara/प्रतिहार
- d) Pandyas/पंड्या

Ans: a

Solution:

According to Buddhist scholar Taranatha, **Gopala**, the founder of the **Pala dynasty** of Bengal & Bihar, built the famous Buddhist monastery at Odantapuri in Bihar. It was built around the 8th century.

26. Which of the following kingdom(s) was/were associated with the life of the Buddha?

निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा राज्य बुद्ध के जीवन से जुड़ा था?

- a) Avanti/अवंती
- b) Magadha/मगध
- c) Kosala/कोषाल
- d) Both (b) and (c)/दोनों (b) और (c)

Ans: d

Kosala and **Magadha** kingdoms were associated with the life of the **Buddha**.

Shravasti was the capital of Kosala Janapada. Most of the monastic life of Buddha was spent in Shravasti.

Rajgir was the early capital of Magadh Janapada, which was ruled by Bimbisara during Buddha's time. After the great departure (Mahabhinishkramana), Buddha had first gone to Rajgir. He started begging alms over there and living a life of an ascetic.

27. The Jain philosophy holds that the world is created and maintained by _____.

जैन दर्शन का मानना है कि विश्व का निर्माण और रखरखाव _____ द्वारा किया जाता है।

- a) Universal Law/ सार्वभौमिक कानून
- b) Universal Truth/ सार्वभौमिक सत्य
- c) Universal Faith/ सार्वभौमिक आस्था
- d) Universal Soul/ सार्वभौमिक आत्मा

Ans: a

Solution:

Jain philosophy holds that the world is created and maintained by **Universal Law**. Jainism does not support belief in a creator deity. All the constituents and actions are governed by universal natural laws.

28. Who was the founder of the Hoysala Dynasty?

होयसल राजवंश के संस्थापक कौन थे?

- a) Nripa Kama II/ नृप काम II
- b) Kadungon/ कडुंगों
- c) Vishnugopa/ विष्णुगोपा
- d) Jayasimha/ जयसिम्हा

Ans: a

Solution:

The **Hoysala Empire** was founded by **King Nripa Kama II**, also known as **Sala**, who ruled from 1026 to 1047 AD. **Dvarasamudra** (Halebidu) was the capital of Hoysalas. Belur was the first capital of Hoysalas.

- Hoysala Empire ruled for a large part of **Karnataka** and parts of **Andhra Pradesh** and **Tamil Nadu** from 10th to 14th century AD.
- Three of the most famous temples built by the Hoysala kingdom are the Kesava Temple at Somnathpura, Chennakesava temple at Belur, and Hoysaleswara temple at Halebidu.

29. Which language was developed during the rule of the Pala dynasty?

पाल वंश के शासन काल में किस भाषा का विकास हुआ?

- a) Hindi/हिंदी
- b) Bengali/बंगाली
- c) Tamil/तमिल
- d) Telugu/तेलुगु

Ans: b

Solution:

Proto-Bengali language also called Bangla is an Indo-Aryan language that was developed during the rule of the **Pala dynasty**. Currently, it is among the second most spoken language of the country and enjoys the status of 22 scheduled languages of India. It is the official language of Bangladesh.

30. The last important king of the Pratihara dynasty was defeated by whom?

प्रतिहार वंश के अंतिम महत्वपूर्ण राजा को किसके द्वारा पराजित किया गया था?

- a) Ahmad Shah Abdali/ अहमद शाह अब्दाली
- b) Akbar/अकबर
- c) Sher Shah Suri/शेर शाह सूरी
- d) Mahmud of Ghazni/ महमूद गजनवी

Ans: d

Solution:

The last important king of the Pratihara dynasty named Rajyapala was defeated by **Mahmud of Ghazni** in 1018 in Kannauj. Mahmud of Ghazni is the ruler of Turkey who got the throne at the age of 27.

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