



UPSC

Prelims

Union Public Service Commission

Volume – 9

Previous Years Questions

UPSC Previous Year Question

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

S.No.	Chapter Name	P.No.
1.	Early History	1
2.	Indus Valley Civilization	1
3.	Vedic Age	1
4.	Buddhism And Jainism	2
5.	Magadh Empire	3
6.	Mauryan Empire	3
7.	The Gupta Empire	4
8.	Harshavardhana	5
9.	Kingdom of South	5
10.	Sangam Age	5
11.	Early Medieval Period	6
12.	Delhi Sultanate	6
13.	Vijayanagara and Bahmani Kingdom	7
14.	Mughal empire	8
15.	Bhakti and Sufi movement	8
16.	Through the eyes of travellers	9
17.	Important Terminologies	9
18.	Miscellaneous	10
❖	Answer Key	143

MODERN HISTORY

S.No.	Chapter Name	P.No.
19.	Arrival of European Powers In India	11
20.	Consolidation and Expansion	11
21.	Administrative organization till 1857	11
22.	Administrative changes after 1858	12
23.	Socio Religious Reform Movements	12
24.	Economy under British rule	13
25.	Development of Education and Press	13
26.	Popular movements against British rule	14
27.	Birth of Nationalism (Moderate Phase: 1885-1905)	15
28.	Era of militant nationalism (1905-1909)	15
29.	The Mass Movement: Gandhian Era (1917-1925)	16
30.	The struggle for Swaraj (1925-1939)	16
31.	Towards Independence (1940-1947)	18
32.	Governor Generals and Viceroy	18
33.	Great Indian Personalities	19
34.	Miscellaneous	19
❖	Answer Key	143

ART & CULTURE

S.No.	Chapter Name	P.No.
35.	Indian Architecture	22
36.	Temple Architecture	22
37.	Indian Sculpture	22
38.	Indian Paintings	23
39.	Dance Forms in India	23
40.	Music in India	23
41.	Indian Religion and Philosophy	24
42.	Indian Literature and Language	24
43.	UNESCO's List of Tangible World Heritage Sites in India	24
❖	Answer Key	144

INDIAN ECONOMICS

S.No.	Chapter Name	P.No.
44.	Basic Concepts of Economy	26
45.	National Income Accounting	26
46.	Money and Money Supply	27
47.	Banking in India	28
48.	Monetary Policy	33
49.	Inflation	34
50.	Government Budgeting	35
51.	Fiscal Policy and Taxation	36
52.	Financial Markets	37

53.	Balance of Payments	40
54.	Foreign Investment	42
55.	Poverty and Unemployment	43
56.	Agriculture In India	44
57.	Industry and Infrastructure	47
58.	Service Sector	49
59.	International Financial Institutions	49
60.	Miscellaneous Topics	51
❖	Answer Key	144

INDIAN POLITY

S.No.	Chapter Name	P.No.
61.	Historical Background	56
62.	Making of the Indian Constitution	56
63.	Salient Features of the Indian Constitution	57
64.	Constitutional Amendments	58
65.	System of Government	58
66.	Preamble of the Constitution	60
67.	States and Union Territories (Part I: Article 1-4 and Part VIII: Article 239-241)	61
68.	Citizenship (Part II: Article 5-11)	61
69.	Fundamental Rights (Part III: Article 12 - 35)	61
70.	Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV: Article 36-51)	63
71.	Fundamental Duties (Part IVA: Article - 51A)	64

72.	President	64
73.	The Executive Branch	66
74.	Parliament (Part V: Articles 79-122)	66
75.	Judiciary	70
76.	Governor	72
77.	State Legislatures (Part VI: Articles 168-212)	73
78.	Local Self-Governance in India: Panchayats and Municipalities	73
79.	Centre-State Relations	74
80.	Special Provisions in the Constitution (5th and 6th Schedule)	75
81.	Bodies/Authorities in India	76
82.	Non-Constitutional Bodies	76
83.	Elections in India	77
84.	Emergency Provisions (Part XVIII: Article 352-360)	78
❖	Answer Key	145

INDIAN GEOGRAPHY

S.No.	Chapter Name	P.No.
85.	Geographical Setting of India	82
86.	Structure and Physiography of India	82
87.	Drainage System	83
88.	Climate	84
89.	Indian Monsoon	84
90.	Natural Vegetation	85
91.	Soils	85

92.	Crops	85
93.	Ports in India	87
94.	Minerals in India	87
95.	Industries in India	88
96.	Miscellaneous	88
❖	Answer Key	146

WORLD GEOGRAPHY

S.No.	Chapter Name	P.No.
97.	Introduction and origin of Earth	92
98.	Evolution of Earth	92
99.	Rocks	93
100.	Geomorphology	94
101.	Volcanoes	94
102.	Earthquakes	95
103.	Climatology	95
104.	World Climate	97
105.	Oceanography	98
106.	Miscellaneous	98
❖	Answer Key	146

ENVIRONMENT

S.No.	Chapter Name	P.No.
107.	Basics of Environment and Ecosystem	102
108.	Biodiversity and Related Issues	103
109.	Wildlife Conservation	104
110.	National Environmental Legislation	105
111.	Protected Areas	106
112.	Major Species and Invasive Species	107
113.	Pollution and Conservation Measures	110
114.	Land Degradation	114
115.	Climate Change and Related International Environmental Conventions	116
116.	Energy	120
117.	Environment Terminologies	122
118.	Miscellaneous	122
❖	Answer Key	147

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

S.No.	Chapter Name	P.No.
119.	Basics of Biology	124
120.	Biotechnology	124
121.	Nanotechnology	127
122.	Information Technology	127
123.	Blockchain Technology	131
124.	Quantum Technology and Big Data	132

125.	General Physics	132
126.	Particle Physics	132
127.	Nuclear Technology	133
128.	Space Technology	134
129.	Origin of Universe and Space Terminologies	135
130.	Defence Technology	136
131.	Health	137
132.	Chemistry	139
133.	Alternative Energy	140
134.	Miscellaneous	140
❖	Answer Key	148

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Early History

Analysis

Early history UPSC focuses on archaeological sites, their locations, and cultural features (Chalcolithic, Megalithic, Neolithic). It also tests knowledge of material remains like terracotta, copper artefacts, and rock-cut structures linked to regional history.

1. Consider the following information:

(2024)

	Archaeological Site	State	Description
1.	Chandrasekhar	Odisha	Trading Port town
2.	Inamgaon	Maharashtra	Chalcolithic site
3.	Mangadu	Kerala	Megalithic site
4.	Salihundam	Andhra Pradesh	Rock-cut shrines

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched ?

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

2. Consider the following pairs: (2021)

	Historical place	Well-known for
1.	Burzahom	Rock-cut shrines
2.	Chandrasekhar	Terracotta art
3.	Ganeshwar	Copper artefacts

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

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

Indus Valley Civilization

Analysis

In the Indus Valley Civilization chapter, UPSC focuses on urban features like town planning, drainage, trade, and crafts, along with sites and their unique findings. It also tests awareness of seals, scripts, religious practices, and cultural legacy.



3. The famous female figurine known as 'Dancing Girl', found at Mohenjo-daro, is made of (2025)

- (a) carnelian (b) clay
(c) bronze (d) gold

4. Which one of the following ancient towns is well-known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelizing water into connected reservoirs? (2021)

- (a) Dholavira (b) Kalibangan
(c) Rakhigarhi (d) Ropar

5. Which one of the following is not a Harappan site? (2019)

- (a) Chanhudaro (b) Kot Diji
(c) Sohagaura (d) Desalpur

Vedic Age

Analysis

In Vedic Age UPSC focuses on society, polity, economy, and religious practices of the Early and Later Vedic periods. It also emphasizes sources like the Vedas, rituals, and changes leading to the emergence of kingdoms and new philosophies.



6. With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct? (2017)

1. Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

2. Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.
3. Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Buddhism And Jainism

Analysis

In the Buddhism and Jainism chapter, UPSC focuses on the life and teachings of the Buddha and Mahavira, key doctrines, councils, and sects. It also emphasizes their spread, patronage, art-architecture, and contemporary relevance.



7. Souls are not only the property of animal and plant life, but also of rocks, running water and many other natural objects not looked on as living by other religious sects. (2023)

The above statement reflects one of the core beliefs of which one of the following religious sects of ancient India?

- (a) Buddhism (b) Jainism
(c) Shaivism (d) Vaishnavism

8. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements: (2020)

1. Sthaviravadins belong to Mahayana Buddhism.
2. Lokottaravadin sect was an offshoot of Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism.
3. The deification of Buddha by Mahasanghikas fostered Mahayana Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

9. With reference to the cultural history of India, which one of the following is the correct description of the term 'paramitas'? (2020)

- (a) The earliest Dharmashastra texts written in aphoristic (sutra) style
(b) Philosophical schools that did not accept the authority of Vedas
(c) Perfections whose attainment led to the Bodhisattva path
(d) Powerful merchant guilds of early medieval South India

10. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following pairs: (2020)

1.	Pativrajaka	-	Renunciant and Wanderer
2.	Shramana	-	Priest with a high status
3.	Upasaka	-	Lay follower of Buddhism

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

11. Consider the following: (2019)

1. Deification of the Buddha
2. Treading the path of Bodhisattvas
3. Image worship and rituals

Which of the above is/are the feature/features of Mahayana Buddhism?

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

12. With reference to the Indian History, who among the following is a future Buddha, yet to come to save the world? (2018)

- (a) Avalokiteshvara (b) Lokeshvara
(c) Maitreya (d) Padmapani

13. With reference to the religious practices in India, the "Sthanakvasi" sect belongs to (2018)

- (a) Buddhism (b) Jainism
(c) Vaishnavism (d) Shaivism

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

14. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements: (2017)

1. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Jainism.
2. Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form.

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

15. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements: (2016)

1. The concept of Bodhisattva is central to Hinayana sect of Buddhism.
2. Bodhisattva is a compassionate one on his way to enlightenment.
3. Bodhisattva delays achieving his own salvation to help all sentient beings on their path to it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Magadh Empire

Analysis

In the Magadh Empire chapter, UPSC focuses on the rise of Magadha through geography, resources, and strong rulers. It also emphasizes administrative innovations, military strength, and its role in the foundation of the Mauryan Empire.

16. With reference to ancient India (600–322 BC), consider the following pairs: (2025)

Territorial region	River flowing in the region
I. Asmaka	Godavari
II. Kamboja	Vipasa
III. Avanti	Mahanadi
IV. Kosala	Sarayu

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one (b) Only two
(c) Only three (d) All the four

Mauryan Empire

Analysis

In the Mauryan Empire chapter, UPSC focuses on administration, economy, society, and the role of rulers like Chandragupta, Bindusara, and Ashoka. It also emphasizes sources like Arthashastra and edicts, along with Mauryan art, architecture, and decline.



17. Consider the following pairs: (2022)

	Site of Ashoka's major rock edicts		Location in the State of
1.	Dhauili	—	Odisha
2.	Erragudi	—	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Jaugada	—	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Kalsi	—	Karnataka

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair (b) Only two pairs
(c) Only three pairs (d) All four pairs

18. Who among the following rulers advised his subjects through this inscription? (2020)
“Whosoever praises his religious sect or blames other sects out of excessive devotion to his own sect, with the view of glorifying his own sect, he rather injures his own sect very severely.”

- (a) Ashoka
(b) Samundragupta
(c) Harshavardhana
(d) Krishanadeva Raya

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

19. Who of the following had first deciphered the edicts of Emperor Ashoka? (2016)

- (a) Georg Buhler (b) James Prinsep
(c) Max Muller (d) William Jones

The Gupta Empire

Analysis

In the Gupta Age, UPSC focuses on rulers, foreign accounts, administration, economy (land revenue, ports, taxation), and cultural achievements in literature, art, and science. It also emphasizes scholars, inscriptions, coins, and reasons for decline.



20. Fa-hien (Faxian), the Chinese pilgrim, travelled to India during the reign of (2025)

- (a) Samudragupta (b) Chandragupta II
(c) Kumaragupta I (d) Skandagupta

21. With reference to Indian history, consider the following pairs: (2022)

	Historical person		Known as
1.	Aryadeva	—	Jaina scholar
2.	Dignaga	—	Buddhist scholar
3.	Nathamuni	—	Vaishnava scholar

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) None of the pairs
(b) Only one pair
(c) Only two pairs
(d) All three pairs

22. With reference to the scholars/litterateurs of ancient India, consider the following statements: (2020)

1. Panini is associated with Pushyamitra

2. Amarasimha is associated with Harshavardhana

3. Kalidasa is associated with Chandra Gupta-II

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. With reference to the history of India, the terms 'kulyavapa' and 'dronavapa' denote (2020)

- (a) measurement of land
(b) coins of different monetary value
(c) classification of urban land
(d) religious rituals

24. With reference to the period of Gupta dynasty in ancient India, the towns Ghantasala, Kadura and Chaul were known as (2020)

- (a) ports handling foreign trade
(b) capitals of powerful kingdoms
(c) places of exquisite stone art and architecture
(d) important of Buddhist pilgrimage centers

25. With reference to forced labour (Vishti) in India during the Gupta period, which one of the following statements is correct? (2019)

- (a) It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.
(b) It was totally absent in the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions of the Gupta Empire.
(c) The forced labourer was entitled to weekly wages.
(d) The eldest son of the labourer was sent as the forced labourer.

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Harshavardhana

Analysis

In the Post-Gupta/Harshavardhana Age, UPSC focuses on political developments, Harsha's reign, and foreign accounts. It also emphasizes religion, education centers like Nalanda, literature (Banabhatta), and features of feudal polity.

26. From the decline of Guptas until the rise of Harshavardhana in the early seventh century, which of the following kingdoms were holding power in Northern India? (2021)

1. The Guptas of Magadha
2. The Paramaras of Malwa
3. The Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
4. The Maukharis of Kanauj
5. The Yadavas of Devagiri
6. The Maitrakas of Valabhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 5 only (b) 1, 3, 4 and 6 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only (d) 5 and 6 only

Kingdom of South

Analysis

From the Kingdoms of South, UPSC focuses on rulers and their titles, land grant systems, and temple-centered administration. It also emphasizes cultural aspects like Ghatikas (temple colleges), Bhakti traditions, and Pallava–Chola contributions to architecture.

27. Who among the following rulers in ancient India had assumed the titles 'Mattavilasa', 'Vichitrachitta' and 'Gunabhara'? (2025)

- (a) Mahendravarman I
(b) Simhavishnu
(c) Narasimhavarman I
(d) Simhavarman

28. In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs: (2016)

Term	Description
1. Eripatti	Land, revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank
2. Taniyurs	Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins
3. Ghatikas	Colleges generally attached to the temples

Which of the pairs given above correctly matched?

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

Sangam Age

Analysis

In the Sangam Age, UPSC focused on ports and trade centers (Korkai, Poompuhar, Muchiri), customs like Vattakirutal, and the warrior ethic reflected in literature. It also emphasizes polity, society, and material culture as depicted in Sangam poems.



29. With reference to ancient South India, Korkai, Poompuhar and Muchiri were well known as (2023)

- (a) capital cities (b) ports
(c) centres of iron-and-steel making
(d) shrines of Jain Tirthankaras

30. Which one of the following explains the practice of Vattakirutal' as mentioned in Sangam poems? (2023)

- (a) Kings employing women bodyguards.
(b) Learned persons assembling in royal courts to discuss religious and philosophical matters
(c) Young girls keeping watch over agricultural fields and driving away birds and animals
(d) A king defeated in a battle committing ritual suicide by starving himself to death

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

31. Which one of the following statement about Sangam literature in ancient South India is correct? (2022)

- (a) Sangam poems are devoid of any reference to material culture.
- (b) The social classification of Varna was known to Sangam poets.
- (c) Sangam poems have no reference to warrior ethic.
- (d) Sangam literature refers to magical forces as irrational.

Early Medieval Period

Analysis

In the Early Medieval Period, UPSC focused on regional kingdoms like Cholas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, and their campaigns, trade, and administration. It also emphasizes ports, dynastic founders, and cultural achievements.

32. Who among the following led a successful military campaign against the kingdom of Srivijaya, the powerful maritime State, which ruled the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and the neighbouring islands? (2025)

- (a) Amoghavarsha (Rashtrakuta)
- (b) Prataparudra (Kakatiya)
- (c) Rajendra I (Chola)
- (d) Vishnuvardhana (Hoysala)

33. Consider the following pairs: (2022)

	King	Dynasty
1.	Nannuka	Chandela
2.	Jayashakti	Paramara
3.	Nagabhata II	Gurjara-Pratihara
4.	Bhoja	Rashtrakuta

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs (d) All four pairs

34. Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya kingdom? (2017)

- (a) Kakinada
- (b) Motupalli
- (c) Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam)
- (d) Nelluru

Delhi Sultanate

Analysis

In the Delhi Sultanate, UPSC focuses on political history (Mongol invasions, rulers, foreign contacts) and administrative systems like Iqta and revenue collection. It also emphasizes society, Sufi groups, and Persian influence.



35. With reference to Indian history, consider the following statements: (2022)

1. The first Mongol invasion of India happened during the reign of Jalal-ud-din Khalji.
2. During the reign of Ala-ud-din Khalji, one Mongol assault marched up to Delhi and besieged the city.
3. Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq temporarily lost portions of the north-west of his kingdom to Mongols.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

36. With reference to Indian history, who of the following were known as "Kulah-Daran"? (2022)

- (a) Arab merchants
- (b) Qalandars
- (c) Persian calligraphists
- (d) Sayyids

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

37. Consider the following statements:

(2021)

1. It was during the reign of Iltutmish that Chengiz Khan reached the Indus in pursuit of the fugitive Khwarezm prince.
2. It was during the reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughluq that Taimur occupied Multan and crossed the Indus.
3. It was during the reign of Deva Raya II of Vijayanagara Empire that Vasco da Gama reached the coast of Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

38. Consider the following statements:

(2019)

1. In the revenue administration of Delhi Sultanate, the in-charge of revenue collection was known as 'Amil'.
2. The Iqta system of Sultans of Delhi was an ancient indigenous institution.
3. The office of 'Mir Bakshi' came into existence during the reign of Khalji Sultans of Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

39. Who of the following rulers of medieval India gave permission to the Portuguese to build a fort at Bhatkal? (2024)

- (a) Krishnadevaraya
(b) Narasimha Saluva
(c) Muhammad Shah III
(d) Yusuf Adil Shah

40. Who among the following rulers of Vijayanagara Empire constructed a large dam across Tungabhadra River and canalcum-aqueduct several kilometres long from the river to the capital city? (2023)

- (a) Devaraya I (b) Mallikarjuna
(c) Vira Vijaya (d) Virupaksha

41. According to the Portuguese writer Nuniz, the women in the Vijayanagara Empire were expert in which of the following areas? (2021)

1. Wrestling
2. Astrology
3. Accounting
4. Soothsaying

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

42. Regarding the taxation system of Krishna Deva, the ruler of Vijayanagar, consider the following statements:

(2016)

1. The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality of the land.
2. Private owners of workshops paid an industries tax.

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

Vijayanagara and Bahmani Kingdom

Analysis

In the Vijayanagara and Bahmani Kingdoms, UPSC focuses on rulers, foreign contacts, irrigation works, and taxation systems. It also emphasizes cultural accounts from travellers like Nuniz.

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Mughal empire

Analysis

In the Mughal Empire, UPSC focuses on administration (Jagirdars, Zamindars), foreign contacts, and policies of rulers like Akbar, Jahangir, and Aurangzeb. It also emphasizes cultural contributions in literature, translations, music, and art patronage.



43. Who among the following rulers of mediaeval Gujarat surrendered Diu to the Portuguese? (2023)

- (a) Ahmad Shah
- (b) Mahmud Begarha
- (c) Bahadur Shah
- (d) Muhammad Shah

44. “Yogavasistha” was translated into Persian by Nizamuddin Panipati during the reign of: (2022)

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Humayun
- (c) Shahjahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

45. With reference to Mughal India, what is/are the difference/differences between Jagirdar and Zamindar? (2019)

1. Jagirdars were holders of land assignments in lieu of judicial and police duties, whereas Zamindars were holders of revenue rights without obligation to perform any duty other than revenue collection.
2. Land assignments to Jagirdars were hereditary and revenue rights of Zamindars were not hereditary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

46. With reference to Mian Tansen, which one of the following statements is not correct? (2019)

- (a) Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar.
- (b) Tansen composed Dhrupads on Hindu gods and goddesses.
- (c) Tansen composed songs on his patrons.
- (d) Tansen invented many Ragas.

47. Who among the following Mughal Emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to album and individual portrait? (2019)

- (a) Humayun
- (b) Akbar
- (c) Jahangir
- (d) Shah Jahan

Bhakti and Sufi movement

Analysis

In the Bhakti and Sufi Movement, UPSC focuses on the teachings, philosophies, and chronology of saints (Ramanuja, Kabir, and Nimbarka). It also emphasizes the role of these movements in promoting devotion, social reform.

48. The world's second tallest statue in sitting pose of Ramanuja was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India at Hyderabad recently. Which one of the following statements correctly represents the teachings of Ramanuja? (2022)

- (a) The best means of salvation was devotion.
- (b) Vedas are eternal, self-existent and wholly authoritative.
- (c) Logical arguments were essential means for the highest bliss
- (d) Salvation was to be obtained through meditation.

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY

49. Consider the following statements:

(2019)

1. Saint Nimbarka was a contemporary of Akbar.
2. Saint Kabir was greatly influenced by Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

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

Through the eyes of travellers

Analysis

In the 'foreign Travellers' chapter, UPSC focuses on accounts of foreign visitors regarding India's trade, economy, society, and polity. It also emphasizes observations on crafts, mines, religion, and culture.

50. Which one of the following foreign travellers elaborately discussed about diamonds and diamond mines of India?

(2018)

- (a) Francois Bernier
(b) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier
(c) Jean de Thevenot
(d) Abbe Barthelemy Carre

Important Terminologies

51. The irrigation device called 'Araghatta' was

(2025)

- (a) A water bag made of leather pulled over a pulley
(b) A large wheel with earthen pots tied to the outer ends of its spokes
(c) A larger earthen pot driven by bullocks
(d) A large water bucket pulled up by rope directly by hand

52. Ashokan inscriptions suggest that the Pradeshika', Rajuka' and Yukta' were important officers at the

(2025)

- (a) village-level administration
(b) district-level administration
(c) provincial administration
(d) level of the central administration

53. With reference to ancient India, Gautama Buddha was generally known by which of the following epithets?

(2024)

1. Nayaputta
2. Shakyamuni
3. Tathagata

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) None of the above are epithets of Gautama Buddha

54. In medieval India, the term "Fanam" referred to:

(2022)

- (a) Clothing (b) Coins
(c) Ornaments (d) Weapons

55. With reference to medieval India, which one of the following is the correct sequence in ascending order in terms of size?

(2021)

- (a) Paragana-Sarkar-Suba
(b) Sarkar-Paragana-Suba
(c) Suba-Sarkar-Paragana
(d) Paragana-Suba-Sarkar

56. With reference to the economic history of medieval India, the term 'Araghatta' refers to

(2016)

- (a) bonded labour
(b) land grants made to military officers
(c) waterwheel used in the irrigation of land
(d) wasteland converted to cultivated land

57. Which of the following phrases defines the nature of the 'Hundi' generally referred to in the sources of the post-Harsha period?

(2020)

- (a) An advisory issued by the king to his subordinates
(b) A diary to be maintained for daily accounts
(c) A bill of exchange
(d) An order from the feudal lord to his subordinates