Art & Culture

DAILY PRACTICE 06/11/2026 · UPSC CSE · Art & Culture

Q1.

With reference to UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme and the recent inclusion of Indian manuscripts in its Asia-Pacific Regional Register, consider the following statements:

1. The Memory of the World Programme was launched by UNESCO in 1992 to safeguard documentary heritage.
2. Rajatarangini, written by Kalhana, is a Sanskrit historical chronicle of Kashmir dating to the 12th century.
3. Kautilya’s Arthashastra primarily deals with religious rituals and temple architecture.
4. The Mahabharata manuscript recently recognised by UNESCO is preserved at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** UNESCO launched the Memory of the World Programme in 1992 to preserve documentary heritage.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Kalhana composed Rajatarangini in Sanskrit during the 12th century, documenting Kashmir's history.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Arthashastra deals with statecraft, administration, economics, diplomacy and military strategy.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** The recognised birch-bark Mahabharata manuscript is preserved at BORI, Pune.

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Q2.

Consider the following pairs:

	Tradition	State
1.	Chapchar Kut festival	Mizoram
2.	Khongjom Parba ballad	Manipur
3.	Thang-Ta dance	Sikkim

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2

C. 3 only

D. 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option B — 1 and 2

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — 1 and 2 only:

Pair 1 is correctly matched. Chapchar Kut is an important spring festival celebrated in Mizoram, traditionally associated with the completion of jungle clearing for jhum cultivation.

Pair 2 is correctly matched. Khongjom Parba is a traditional ballad of Manipur that commemorates the Battle of Khongjom fought in 1891.

Pair 3 is incorrectly matched. Thang-Ta is a traditional martial art of Manipur, not Sikkim.

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Q3.

With reference to Indian history, who among the following is the future Buddha, yet to come to save the world?

A. Avalokiteshvara

B. Lokesvara

C. Maitreya

D. Padmapani

Correct answer: Option C — Maitreya

Explanation

Correct Answer: (c) — Maitreya:

Maitreya is regarded in Buddhist tradition as the future Buddha who will appear in the world when the teachings of Gautama Buddha have disappeared.

He is expected to attain enlightenment and re-establish the teachings of Dharma.

Avalokiteshvara, Lokesvara and Padmapani are associated with the Bodhisattva tradition, particularly the ideal of compassion.

Q4.

Which one of the following foreign travellers elaborately discussed diamonds and diamond mines in India?

A. Francois Bernier

B. Jean Baptiste Tavernier

C. Jean de Thevenot

D. Abbe Barthelemy Carre

Correct answer: Option B — Jean Baptiste Tavernier

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Jean Baptiste Tavernier:

Jean Baptiste Tavernier was a French traveller and merchant who visited India several times during the 17th century.

He was particularly interested in precious stones and provided detailed accounts of Indian diamonds, diamond mines and the diamond trade.

His writings are important historical sources for understanding India's commercial activities, wealth and gemstone industry during the Mughal period.

Q5.

With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements:

1. White marble was used in making Buland Darwaza and Khankah at Fatehpur Sikri.
2. Red sandstone and marble were used in making Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza at Lucknow.

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

Correct answer: Option A — 1 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — 1 only:

Statement 1 is correct. White marble was used in decorative elements of the Buland Darwaza and in the tomb of Sheikh Salim Chishti, located within the Fatehpur Sikri complex. The question refers to the use of marble in the architectural complex.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza in Lucknow are primarily associated with brick masonry and plasterwork, rather than the stated combination of red sandstone and marble.

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Q6.

With reference to the religious practices in India, the “Sthanakvasi” sect belongs to:

A. Buddhism

B. Jainism

C. Vaishnavism

D. Shaivism

Correct answer: Option B — Jainism

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Jainism:

Sthanakvasi is a sect of Shvetambara Jainism.

The Sthanakvasis do not worship idols and instead emphasise meditation, prayer and spiritual practices in places known as sthanaks.

They believe that spiritual progress can be achieved through right faith, right knowledge and right conduct, which are central principles of Jain philosophy.

Q7.

With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Most of the Tyagaraja kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
2. Tyagaraja created several new ragas.
3. Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
4. Annamacharya kirtanas are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 and 3 only

B. 2 and 4 only

C. 1, 2 and 3

D. 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — 2 and 4 only

1. **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Tyagaraja's compositions are primarily devotional songs in praise of Lord Rama, not Lord Krishna.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** Tyagaraja composed several kritis and contributed to the development and popularisation of Carnatic

music, including the use of new ragas.

3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Annamacharya lived during the 15th century, whereas Tyagaraja lived during the 18th–19th centuries. They were not contemporaries.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Annamacharya composed devotional songs dedicated to Lord Venkateshwara of Tirumala.

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Q8.

The well-known painting “Bani Thani” belongs to the:

A. Bundi School

B. Jaipur School

C. Kangra School

D. Kishangarh School

Correct answer: Option D — Kishangarh School

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — Kishangarh School

Bani Thani is a famous painting associated with the Kishangarh school of Rajasthani miniature painting.

It is traditionally attributed to the artist Nihal Chand and depicts a graceful female figure with distinctive features such as elongated eyes, a pointed nose and an arched eyebrow.

The painting is often associated with the portrayal of the idealised beauty of Radha.

Q9.

Consider the following pairs:

	Crafts	Heritage of
1.	Puthukkuli shawls	Tamil Nadu
2.	Sujni embroidery	Maharashtra
3.	Uppada Jamdani saris	Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2

C. 3 only

D. 2 and 3

Correct answer: Option A — 1 only

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Explanation

Correct Answer: (a) — 1 only

1. **Pair 1 is correct:** Puthukkuli shawls are a traditional textile craft associated with the Toda community of the Nilgiri region in Tamil Nadu.
2. **Pair 2 is incorrect:** Sujni embroidery is traditionally associated with Bihar, particularly the Bhusura region.
3. **Pair 3 is incorrect:** Uppada Jamdani saris are associated with Uppada in Andhra Pradesh, not Karnataka.

Q10.

Consider the following:

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

Correct answer: Option D — 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

Correct Answer: (d) — 1, 2 and 3

1. **Deification of the Buddha:** Mahayana traditions increasingly viewed the Buddha as a transcendent or divine figure.
2. **Bodhisattva ideal:** The path of the Bodhisattva, who seeks enlightenment for the benefit of all beings, is central to Mahayana Buddhism.
3. **Image worship and rituals:** Images of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas and associated devotional practices became important in many Mahayana traditions.

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