



An Institute for Civil Services

IAS PRELIMS 2020

**COMPLETE REVISION OF
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through
500 MCQs**

DAY: 38

**QUESTIONS
with ANSWER HINTS**

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**SEPTEMBER
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QUESTIONS

1. Kumbhabhishegam (consecration) ceremony at the Sri Brahadeeswarar Temple is been witnessed in which state of India?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Karnataka

2. Consider the following statements regarding iconic archaeological sites mentioned in the Budget:

1. Hastinapur finds mention in the Mahabharata and the Puranas.
2. Dholavira site is in Gujarat.
3. In Rakhigarhi grave consisted of more than one skeletal remains and of individuals of the opposite sex together.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

3. Art forms an integral part of the Constitution of India. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding it?

1. Illustrations in the constitution include only one female lead- Rani Laxmi Bai.
2. The constitution was calligraphed by Nand Lal Bose.
3. Prem Bihari Raizada worked on the borders of each page.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

4. Match the following:

<i>Paintings</i>	<i>State</i>
A. Paitkar	1. Bihar
B. Pattachittra	2. Jharkhand
C. Madhubani	3. Odisha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

	A	B	C
(a)	3	2	1
(b)	2	1	3
(c)	2	3	1
(d)	1	3	2

5. Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form of-

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Tamil Nadu

6. Which of the following statements regarding 'India Culture Portal' is/are correct?

1. It is the first government authorized portal where knowledge and cultural resources of various organizations are available in public domain on a single platform.
2. It is a part of National Virtual library of India project.

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

7. Chapchar Kut is an annual harvest festival that transcends gender and age boundaries, is celebrated in which of the following Indian State?

- (a) Nagaland
- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Sikkim
- (d) Mizoram

8. Attukal Pongala festival is celebrated in which of the following states ?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Tamilnadu
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

9. With reference to National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) consider the following statements:

- 1. The Complex will be developed at Andhra Pradesh.
- 2. It is a cooperation between the USA and India for its development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10. Recently, Herath Festival was seen in news. It is one of the biggest festivals of _____:

- (a) Asur tribe.
- (b) Kashmiri Pandits
- (c) Gond Tribe
- (d) Nagas

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ANSWER HINTS

Answer Key

Q. 1 (c)	Q. 3 (b)	Q. 5 (b)	Q. 7 (c)	Q. 9 (a)
Q. 2 (a)	Q. 4 (c)	Q. 6 (a)	Q. 8 (b)	Q. 10 (c)

1. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct**

Supplementary notes:

Kumbhabhishegam row: How the old Aryan-Dravidian tussle played out in an iconic Tamil Nadu temple

- This enormously significant event was held after 23 years.
- The judgment delivered the struggle for supremacy between the Sanskrit and Tamil traditions that lies at the heart of several cultural battles in the state — and which also played out in the kumbhabhishegam ceremony.
- The consecration ceremony that culminated with the maha poornahuthi or the main puja
- The Sri Brahadeeswarar Temple (also spelt Brihadeesvara, and called Peruvudaiyar Koyil, which translates simply to 'Big Temple') is the most famous of the many temples in Thanjavur.
- The temple, one of the world's largest and grandest, was built between 1003 AD and 1010 AD by the great Chola emperor Raja Raja I (c. 985-1014 AD).
- Holy water brought from the yaga salai — the site of the yajna in the temple compound — was poured on the gold-plated kalasam that tops the 216-foot vimanam over the sanctum sanctorum.
- The other idols at the temple too, were sanctified with holy water from the yaga salai.
- Kumbha-abhishekam is a purification ceremony to sanctify the temple structures and the Deities.

- Kumbha (kalasa) is a pot and the abhishekam -generally means 'bathing' (Sanskrit root word-Shic- to sprinkle —, abhi -all around-).
- When the two words are combined, it 'means ceremonial pouring of sanctified materials.'
- In temple worship, sixty-four worship procedures are recommended by Agama Sastras.
- Of these sixty-four, five upacharas (paadyam, gandham, pushpam, dhoopam, deepam) are of paramount importance.
- These five are then followed by naivedyam, which is distributed to devotees as prasadam.
- Among the five upachara, paadyam, or offer of water is most important.
- This is the reason why during the Kumbha-abhishekam, water contained in pots is first sanctified with Vedic prayers (Theertha kalasa Pooja), after which it used for abhishekam for the deities and other structures.

2. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **All statements are correct**

Supplementary notes

The Five 'Iconic' Archaeological Sites mentioned in the Budget

- **Rakhigarhi**
 - Rakhigarhi in Haryana's Hissar district is one of the most prominent and largest sites of the Harappan civilisation.
 - It is one among the five known townships of the Harappan civilisation in the Indian subcontinent.
 - Between 2013 and 2016, excavations were carried out at the cemetery in Rakhigarhi

by a team of Indian and South Korean researchers led by Vasant Shinde of Deccan College, Pune.

- In one of their excavations, the skeletal remains of a couple were discovered.
- Interestingly, of the 62 graves discovered in Rakhigarhi, only this particular grave consisted of more than one skeletal remains and of individuals of the opposite sex together.
- **Hastinapur**
 - Excavations at Hastinapur, in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh.
 - Hastinapur finds mention in the Mahabharata and the Puranas.
 - One of the most significant discoveries made at this site was of the "new ceramic industry", which was named the Painted Grey Ware, which as per the report represented the relics of the early Indo-Aryans.
 - The Painted Grey Ware would be associated with the early settlers on these sites, viz. The Pauravas, Panchalas, etc., who formed a part of the early Aryan stock in India.
 - Such an association may also explain the synchronism between the appearance of the Painted Grey Ware in the Ghaggar-Sutlej valleys and the probable date of the arrival of the Aryans in that area."
- **Sivasagar**
 - In Sivasagar, excavations at the Karenghar (Talatalghar) complex between 2000 and 2003 led to the discovery of buried structures in the north-western and north-eastern side of the complex.
 - Among the structural remains found at the site were ceramic assemblages including vases, vessels, dishes, and bowls, etc.
 - Terracotta smoking pipes were also found.
 - Another excavation site in Sivasagar district is the Garhgaon Raja's palace.
 - A burnt-brick wall running in north-south orientation was found, along with the remains of two huge circular wooden posts.
- **Dholavira**
 - Dholavira in Gujarat is located in the Khadir island of the Rann of Kutch, and like Rakhigarhi is one of the sites where the remains of the Harappan civilisation have been found.

- Dholavira is unique because remains of a complete water system have been found here.
- The people who lived there for an estimated 1,200 years during the Harappan civilisation are noted for their water conservation system using rainwater harvesting techniques in an otherwise parched landscape.

- **Adichnallur**

- Adichnallur lies in the Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.
- The urn-burial site was first brought to light during a "haphazard excavation" by a German archaeologist in 1876.
- Following this, an Englishman Alexander Rae excavated the site between 1889 and 1905.
- Over the years, the site has gained attention because of three important findings: the discovery of an ancient Tamil-Brahmi script on the inside of an urn containing a full human skeleton, a fragment of broken earthenware, and the remains of living quarters.

3. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect:** The constitution was calligraphed by Prem Bihari Raizada. Nand Lal Bose worked on the borders of each page.

Supplementary notes:

Art in the Constitution

- **Calligraphy:** The original copy of the Constitution was carved out of his own hands by the then-famous Caligrapher (calligrapher) Prem Bihari Narayan Raizada.
- Raizada wrote the constitution in italic style, in which he did not make a single error.
- Raizada did not take a single penny to write the constitution.
- He only requested to write his name on every page, and his grandfather's name (from whom he had inherited his calligraphy skills) on the last page. His request was accepted.
- Several students of Santiniketan worked on the borders that frame each page. Among them were Nand Lal Bose and his disciples.
- The constitution was written in both Hindi and English languages.



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- **Bose's illustrations:** Bose harnessed a variety of Indian art traditions, including myths and actual history. Illustrations include:
- Land of forest, desert, sea and mountain start with the seal of a Harappan bull.
- The forested hermitages of the rishis.
- Ram, Sita and Lakshman.
- The great dilemma of what is righteous action is typified Arjun and Krishna.
- Division of the relics of Buddha from the life of Ashok.
- Only one female heroine- Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi.
- Many styles of Indian art: the wall paintings of Ajanta, Bagh and the book illustrations of Rajasthan, the Mughal, Deccani and Pahari traditions, the sculptures of Konark, Bharhut, Amaravati, Mahabalipuram and the Chola south.

4. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- **Option (c) is correctly matched:**

<i>Paintings</i>	<i>State</i>
A. Paitkar	2. Jharkhand
B. Pattachitra	3. Odisha
C. Madhubani	1. Bihar

Supplementary notes:

Madhubani Paintings

- **Mithila painting is practiced in the Northern and Eastern Bihar region in India and in Nepal.** Twigs, nibs, matchsticks, and fingers are used for painting. Natural dyes and pigments are used as paints. It is characterized by geometrical patterns such as line drawing filled with bright colors. The painting is done on freshly plastered or mud walls. Godna, Kohbar, Tantrik, Bharni, and Katchni are the distinctive styles of Madhubani painting.

Pattachitra

- **Pattachitra style of painting is one of the oldest and most popular art forms of Odisha.** Pattachitra – literally translates to picture on a cloth. It is traditionally practiced in the state of Odisha. The paintings encompass Hindu mythology, religious stories, folklore and the figures of deities. Natural paints and a cloth canvas are used for creating simple themes.

Paitkar Paintings

- **Amadubi situated in the Eastern part of Jharkhand is also called the village of Paitkar.** 'Paitkar' is the traditional painting of this village, an art form which is present in the village from ancient times.
- The Paitkar paintings are also popularly known as the scroll paintings of Jharkhand. This painting form is popular in West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and other adjacent states of India.
- The tribal artists in Jharkhand have fostered this art of scroll painting that has long been used in storytelling performances and in socio-religious customs.
- The paintings that belong to this form have a common subject of what happens to human life after death.
- The historical lineage of the Paitkar painting can be traced to the culture associated with the state of West Bengal, but now the art is practiced only in Amadubi village.
- Paitkar painting may be considered as the variable of Pata painting. Pata painting or Patachitra was term used for long scroll painting. This scroll painting has a vertical format.
- Pata painting is one of the earliest folk paintings of India.

5. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

Yakshagana

- Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form of Karnataka.
- It is a temple art form that depicts mythological stories and Puranas.
- It is performed with massive headgears, elaborate facial make-up and vibrant costumes and ornaments.
- Usually recited in Kannada, it is also performed in Malayalam as well as Tulu (the dialect of south Karnataka).
- It is performed with percussion instruments like chenda, maddalam, jagatta or chengila (cymbals) and chakratala or elathalam (small cymbals).

6. Correct Option: (c)

Explanation:

- Indian culture portal is the first government authorized portal where knowledge and

cultural resources of various organizations of Ministry of Culture are now available in public domain on a single platform.

- It is a part of National Virtual Library of India Project.
- The Indian Culture portal was envisioned by the Ministry of Culture and was developed by a team from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay while the curation of the data has been done by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).
- The content available on the portal comprises mainly of rare books, e-books, manuscripts, artefacts from museum, virtual galleries, archives, photo archives, gazetteers, Indian National Bibliography, videos, images, cuisine, UNESCO, Musical Instruments of India among others.
- One of the unique features of the portal is the stories, based on original archival documents narrated in an interesting, easy to read and understand format.
- The portal also contains write-ups and beautiful pictures on cuisines, festivals, paintings, folk art and classical art from different states of India. Rich information about rare books, manuscripts and research papers on our cultural heritage is also available on this portal.
- The content on the portal is available in English and Hindi language in an interactive, user-friendly interface. As envisioned by the Ministry, the portal also will be available in other regional languages in future.
- The larger aim of the Indian Culture portal is to create awareness among the citizens about the diverse heritage of our country.

7. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

Chapchar Kut Festival

- Chapchar Kut Festival is being celebrated in the State of Mizoram.
- Chapchar Kut is an annual harvest festival of the Mizo Community which marks the beginning of Spring Season.
- It is celebrated during March every year where they cut bamboo trees and are left to dry so that they can be burnt for jhum Cultivation.
- During the festival, traditional bamboo dances such as Cheraw are also performed.

8. Correct Option: (a)

Explanation:

Attukal Pongala

- **Annual 10-day Attukal Pongala festival was held at Attukal Temple in Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) in February 2019.**
- Pongala (meaning- 'to boil over') is the ritual in which women prepare sweet payasam (a pudding made from rice, jaggery, coconut, and plantains) and offer it to the Goddess.
- **The Goddess is fondly referred to as 'Attukalamma'.**
- Attukal temple is also popularly known as women's Sabarimala - **where only women are allowed to take part in the rituals.**
- It was listed in the Guinness World Records in 2009 for being the largest religious gathering of women on a single day

9. Correct Option: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** A world-class National Maritime Heritage Complex will be developed at Lothal, Gujarat.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The MoU between India and Portugal on National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal will pay the way for cooperation between the two countries for showcasing common Maritime Heritage.

Supplementary notes:

National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)

- A world-class National Maritime Heritage Complex will be developed at Lothal, Gujarat.
- The MoU between India and Portugal on National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal will pay the way for cooperation between the two countries for showcasing common Maritime Heritage.
- NMHC will consolidate all diverse and rich artifacts from ancient to modern times.
- It will provide access to the public and make them aware of India's rich Maritime Heritage

10. Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

Herath Festival

- The Prime Minister has greeted the people on the occasion of the Herath festival.

**BATCH
2**

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- The word Herath comes from the Sanskrit word Hararatri or the Night or Hara (another name of Lord Shiva).
- It is one of the biggest festivals of **Kashmiri Pandits**.

- The festival is marked by a night of praying followed by a day of feasting.

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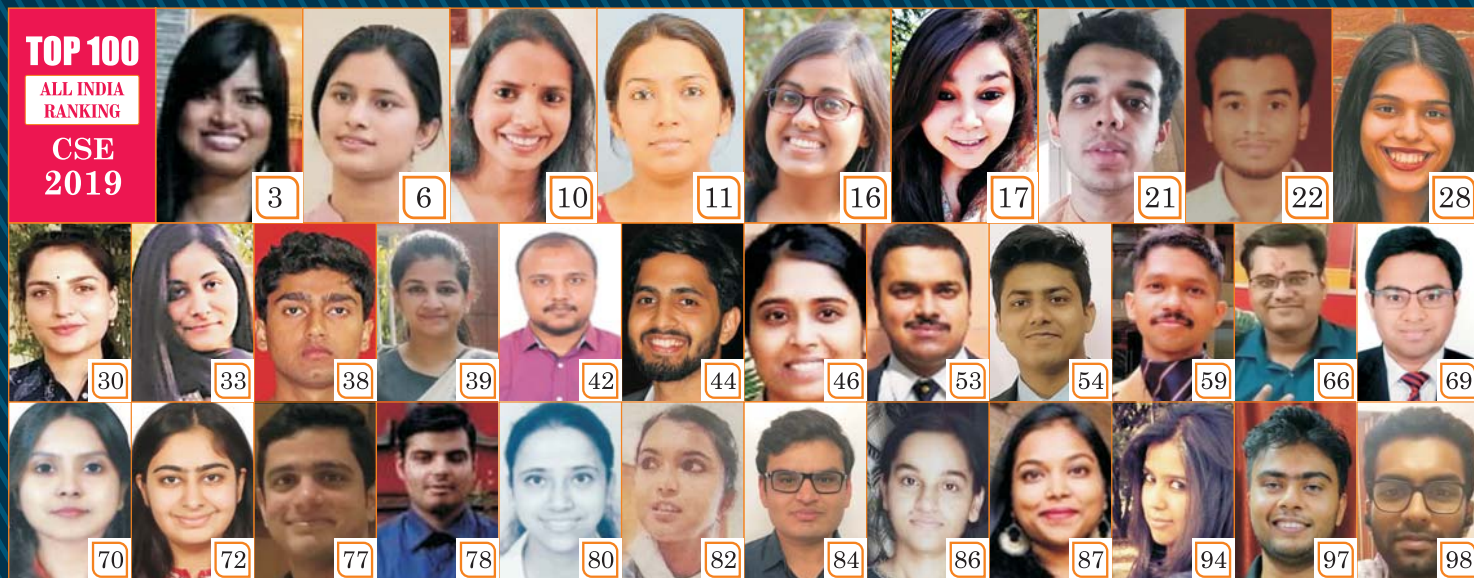
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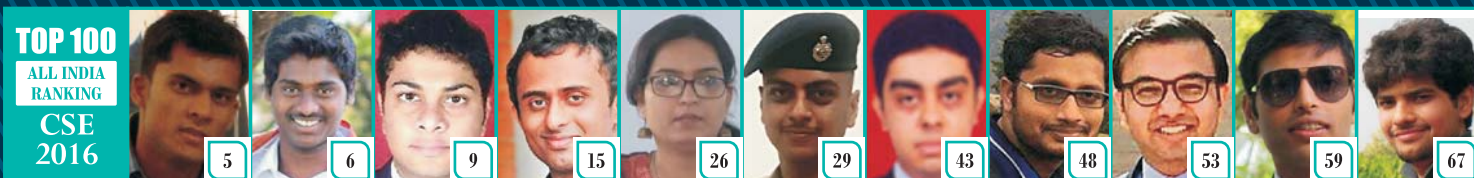
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