

IAS Prelims Exam: Ancient History

NCERT Questions: The Geographical Background of Indian History III

Old edition of NCERT Books are still high in demand in terms of UPSC IAS Exam Preparation because it has extensive coverage of the topics given in the UPSC IAS Exam syllabus. The IAS aspirants find it difficult to get an old edition NCERT book from market due to its unavailability in the market.

Here, we have provided Multiple Choice Questions of Ancient Indian History which have been created from the old edition of NCERT book, go and check your level of your Preparation of IAS Prelims Exam.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Southern tip of the Indian Peninsula:

- I. The southern tip of the peninsula is known as Cape Comorin or Kanyakumari.
- II. To the south-east of Cape Comorin is the island of Sri Lanka, which though not an integral part, has been closely associated with India.
- III. An almost continuous chain of islands and shoals connect India with this island which has been given the name of Adam's Bridge.

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

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. II and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: The southern tip of the peninsula is known as Cape Comorin or Kanyakumari. To its south-east is the island of Sri Lanka, which though not an integral part, has been closely associated with India. An almost continuous chain of islands and shoals connect India with this island which has been given the name of Adam's Bridge: The mango shaped island was known in ancient times by the name of Tambraparni, a corrupt word from Sanskrit Tambraparni, i.e., having a look or shape of tambula or betel leaf. It was also known as Simhaladvipa.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the climate of Indian subcontinent:

- I. The Indian subcontinent is guarded by the lofty Himalayas from the cold arctic winds from Siberia; it has a fairly warm climate throughout the year.
- II. It has regular six ritus of two months each and three seasons of four months.
- III. Roughly December through March is the hot season when temperature goes up to 48° C or more in some regions.

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

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. II and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: b

Explanation: The Indian subcontinent is situated mostly in the tropical zone. Guarded by the lofty Himalayas from the cold arctic winds from Siberia, it has a fairly warm climate throughout the year. It has regular six ritus of two months each and three seasons of four months. Roughly March through June is the hot season when temperature goes up to 48° C or more in some regions. Then follows the rainy season for four months from July to October. The south-west monsoon brings rain in varying degrees throughout the country.

3. Consider the followings statements regarding the rainfall in the Indo-Gangetic plains:

- I. The northern portion of the Indus region and the whole of the Ganga plain receive rainfall between 100-200 cms per annum.
- II. The north -eastern part of India rainfalls in the range of 200-400 cm. or even more.
- III. As per the evidence show that in ancient times it received lesser rainfall and the Harappan civilization flourished in this region.

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

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. II and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: b

Explanation: In the Indo-Gangetic plains the annual rainfall varies from region to region. The northern portion of the Indus region and the whole of the Ganga plain receive rainfall between 100-200 cms per annum, While the north-eastern part of India falls in the range of 200-400 cm. or even more. In modern times the regions of Haryana and Rajasthan including parts of Sind and Gujarat receive less rainfall. But the evidence show that in ancient times it received higher rainfall and the Harappan civilization flourished in this region.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the significance of varied climates on Indian agriculture:

- I. In a major part of India, the southwest monsoon brings rain which is most important for the Kharif crops.
- II. The rain caused by the western disturbances in the winter gives rise to the second crop of the year called the Rabi during winter season.
- III. Rice is cultivated in the plains of the Ganga and Brahmaputra and in the eastern coast upto Tamil Nadu.

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

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. II and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: In a major part of India, the southwest monsoon brings rain which is most important for the Kharif crops. Similarly, the rain caused by the western disturbances in the winter gives rise to the second crop of the year called the Rabi during winter season. Rice is cultivated in the plains of the Ganga and Brahmaputra and in the eastern coast upto Tamil Nadu. Wheat and barley are the main Rabi crops grown in the western and most other parts of India.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Geography of India as described in the Ancient Indian Literature:

- I. The vast subcontinent of India was known in the past as Bharatavarsha, the land of the Bharatas, bounded on the north by the Himalayas and by the ocean in the south.
- II. The name 'India' was first applied by the Achaemenid Persians to the region watered by the Sindhu.

III. The Sapta Sindhu, referring to the region of the seven rivers of the Saraswati, was the term used for India in the Zend Avesta, the sacred book of Parasis.

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

- a. Only I
- b. I and II
- c. II and III
- d. All of the above

Answer: d

Explanation: The vast subcontinent of India was known in the past as Bharatavarsha, the land of the Bharatas, bounded on the north by the Himalayas and by the ocean in the south. It formed the southern part of Jambu-dvipa. The name 'India' was first applied by the Achaemenid Persians to the region watered by the Sindhu. The Sapta Sindhu, referring to the region of the seven rivers of the Saraswati (or five streams of the Saraswati together with the Ganges and the Jamuna), was the term used for India in the Zend Avesta, the sacred book of Parasis.

6. The first definite mention of Bharata as a region is to be found in the work of:

- a. Panini
- b. Patanjali
- c. Herodotus
- d. Hieun-Tsang

Answer: a

Explanation: The first definite mention of Bharata as a region is to be found in Panini who lived about sixth century B.C. It is only one out of 22 janapadas specified from Kamboja to Magadha, all in Northern India. Buddhist literature subsequently speaks of seven Bharata regions (Sapta-Bharatas) corresponding to the ancient Sapta-Sindhu. Arya-desa and Brahmarshtra were other names of India mentioned by I-tsing.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Aryavarta, an ancient name of India:

- I. Aryavarta was also another ancient name given at the time of Patanjali (150 B.C.) to the northern part of India lying between the Himalayas and the Pariyatraka or the western part of the Vindhya.
- II. Aryavarta on the west it was bounded by the Adarsavali or Aravalli and on the east by the Kalakavana or the Rajmahal Hills.

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

- a. Only I
- b. Only II
- c. Both I and II
- d. Neither I nor II

Answer: c

Explanation: Aryavarta was also another ancient name given at the time of Patanjali (150 B.C.) to the northern part of India lying between the Himalayas and the Pariyatraka or the western part of the Vindhya. On the west it was bounded by the Adarsavali or Aravalli and on the east by the Kalakavana or the Rajmahal Hills. The Puranas define the term Bharatavarsha as "the country that lies north of the ocean (i.e. the Indian Ocean) and south of the snowy mountains (Himalayas), marked by the seven main chains of mountains.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the historical significance of the ancient name, Bharatavarsha:

- I. The ancient name Bharatavarsha has historical significance, indicating the country of the Bharatas of RigVeda.
- II. It engaged their deepest sentiments of love and service as expressed in their literature.
- III. In some of the sacred texts like the Bhagavata Purana, or Manusmriti are found passages of patriotic fervour describing Bharatavarsha as the land fashioned by the Gods themselves.

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

- a. Only I
- b. Only II
- c. Both I and II
- d. Neither I nor II

Answer: d

Explanation: The name Bharatavarsha is not a mere geographical expression like the term India. It has historical significance, indicating the country of the Bharatas of Rig Veda. It engaged their deepest sentiments of love and service as expressed in their literature. One of the commonest prayers for a Hindu requires him to recall and worship the image of his mother country as the land of

seven sacred rivers, the Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari, Saraswati, Narmada, Sindhu, and Kaveri, which between them cover its entire area.