



# **2025 Prelims Ancient & Medieval History Report Card**

**Contact 75979-00000  
for  
IAS Classes and Study Material**



**Total Questions = 7  
Hits = 6  
Miss = 1**

# **PrepMate IAS**

# Ancient History

## Prelims 2025 Questions

## PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits

1. Who among the following rulers in ancient India had assumed the titles 'Mattavilasa', 'Vichitrachitta' and 'Gunabhara'?

- a. Mahendravarman I
- b. Simhavishnu
- c. Narasimhavarman I
- d. Simhavarman

**Correct Option: (a)**

## PrepMate IAS Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Page 165

**Mahendravarman I** composed the Sanskrit play **Mattavilasa**prahasanam. The Nayanmars and Alvars composed religious hymns in Tamil. The *Devaram* composed by Nayanmars and the *Nalayradivyaprabandam* composed by Alvars represent the religious literature of the Pallava period. Perundevanar was patronized by Nandivarman II and he translated the Mahabharata as Bharathavenba in Tamil. *Nandikkalambagam* was another important work but the name of the author of this work is not known.

Music and dance also developed during this period.

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

- a. Samudragupta
- b. Chandragupta II
- c. Kumaragupta I
- d. Skandagupta

**Correct Option: (b)**

**PrepMate IAS Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Page 144**

**Fa-Hien (c. 337–422)**

**Fa-Hien** (also known as Faxian) was a Chinese pilgrim, who visited India during the reign of **Chandragupta II**. He came to India by the land route through North-West India. He visited Peshawar, Mathura, Kannauj, Sravasti, Kapilavastu, Kusinagara, Pataliputra, Kasi, and Bodh Gaya among other places. He returned by the sea route, visiting on the way Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka) and Java (Island of Indonesia). The main agenda of his visit was to know about origins of Buddhism and to collect Buddhist manuscripts from India.

He stayed in India for 9 years. Out of this stay, he spent 6 years in the Gupta Empire including 3 years stay in Pataliputra for studying Sanskrit and copying Buddhist texts.

His account provides the following information:

■ **Religion:** Fa-Hien's primary interest was religion. He assessed everything from the angle of Buddhism. The popular religions at that time were Buddhism and Hinduism. Hinduism was popular in North India, whereas Buddhism was flourishing in Western India. He even mentions about unsatisfactory state of some of the Buddhist holy places like Kapilavastu and Kusinagara in North India.

■ **Politics:** Fa-Hien did not even mention the name of Chandragupta II in his account. He was not interested in political affairs. However, it can be inferred from his account that the Gupta rulers were tolerant toward other religions. Economic condition of the empire was prosperous.

■ **Administration:** Fa-Hien characterizes the Gupta administration as kind and benevolent. There were no restrictions on movement of people. People enjoyed a large degree of

**Prelims 2025 Questions****PrepMate IAS Notes - Hits**

3. With reference to ancient India (600-322 BC), consider the following pairs:

Territorial region      River flowing in the region

- |               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| I. Asmaka :   | Godavari |
| II. Kamboja : | Vipas    |
| 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

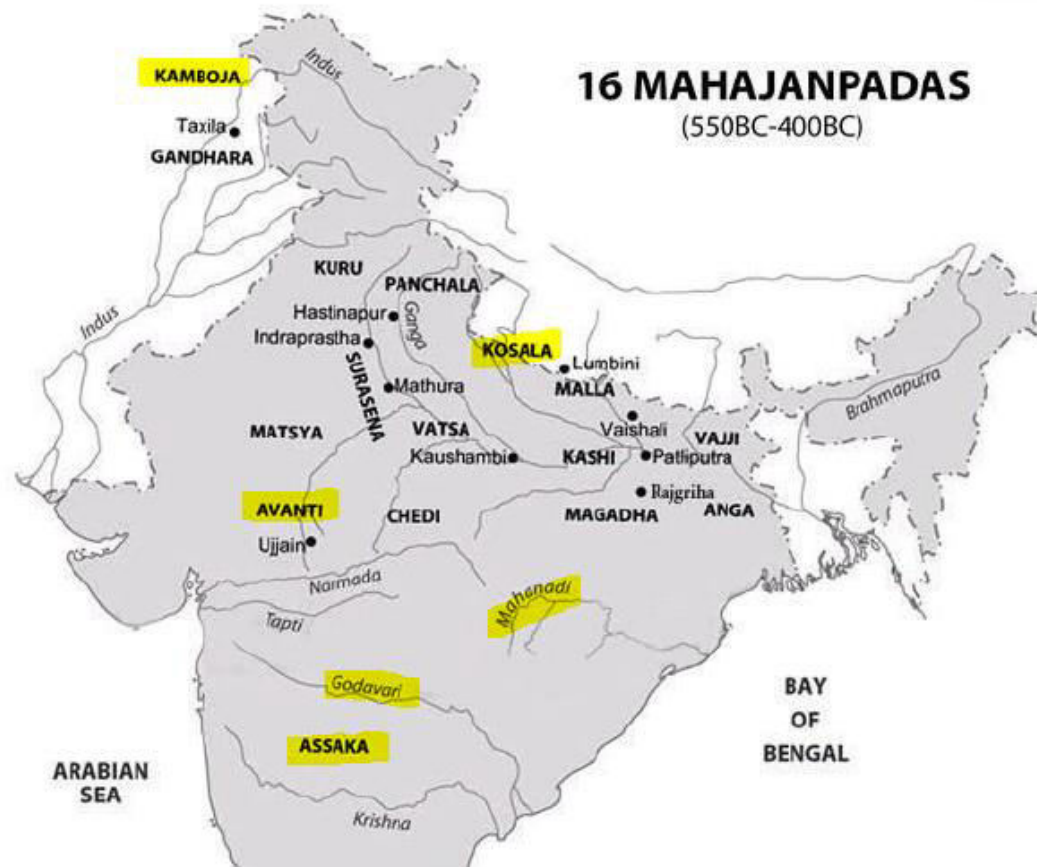
**Correct Option: (b)**

**Pair I is correctly matched.**

**PrepMate IAS Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Page 82**

**15. Assaka/Asmaka**

- Located in the modern-day Maharashtra, bank of river Godavari,
- Capital: Potali/Podana,
- Vayu Purana recprds the kings of Assaka were descendants of Ikshvaku clan. Asmaka Jataka records supremacy of Kashi over Asmaka for some time,
- Only Mahajanapada to be situated South of Vindhaya Range (Dakshinpatha).



**Pair II is incorrectly matched.**

Vipas is Rigvedic name of Beas, which flows through Himachal Pradesh & Punjab. On the other hand, Kamboja was situated in Northern Part of Pakistan & Afghanistan.

#### Vedic Names of Popular Rivers

Rig Vedic Name	Modern Name
Sindhu	Indus
Vitase	Jhelum
Askini	Chenab
Parushni	Ravi
Vipasa	Beas
Sutudri	Sutlej
Gumal	Gomati
Krumu	Kurram
Drishadvati	Ghaggar
Naditarna	Saraswati

**Pair III is incorrectly matched.**

Avanti was located in Madhya Pradesh. Mahanadi flows through Chhattisgarh & Orissa.

Pair IV is correctly matched: the Kosala kingdom was located on the Saryu River. Ancient sources and historical records confirm that Kosala extended across both banks of the Saryu (modern Ghaghara) River, with its capital Ayodhya situated on its banks. The Saryu was the principal river of the Kosala region and played a central role in its geography and history

- Capital: Sravasti,
- Important cities: Ayodhya, Saketa, Banaras, Sravasti, etc.,
- Important kings: Lord Rama, Prithu, Harishchandra, Dilip. Dilip in Hindu mythology is said to have been one of the most righteous and chivalrous emperors that the Solar dynasty or the Ikshvaku dynasty had ever produced,
- King Prasenjit was the famous king. Cordial relations with Magadha due to matrimonial alliance (sister married to Bimbisara). Struggle for supremacy with Ajatasatru. Prasenjit was succeeded by Vidudabha,
- Annexed by Magadha (under Ajatasatru) after Vidudabha came to the throne.

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

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

**Correct Option: (b)**

**PrepMate IAS Notes Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Page 95**

**District administration**

The provinces were divided into districts ruled by Sthanika. They were also assisted by clerks, officers, etc. They ran day-to-day administration independently but were expected to consult the king/provincial governors on important matters. The chief revenue officer at the district level was Pradeshika. He was assisted by Rajuka (Revenue Settlement Officer) and Yukta (Tax Collector).



5. The famous female figurine known as 'Dancing Girl', found at Mohenjodaro, is made of

- a. carnelian
- b. clay
- c. bronze
- d. gold

**Correct Option: (c)**

### Ancient, Medieval and Culture, Page 21

#### Sculpture

Two main sculptures that were extracted from the ruins of Indus Valley are—(i) priest in limestone and (ii) a statue of a "Dancing Girl" in bronze. These sculptures exhibit the level of expertise that the artists of Harappan civilization had achieved in making sculptures.

The ornament on the forehead of the famous "priest-king" sculpture appears to represent an eye bead, possibly made of gold with steatite inlay in the center.



*Sculpture of Priest-King found at Mohenjodaro*



*Dancing girl found at Mohenjodaro*

## Medieval History

Prelims 2025 Questions	PrepMate IAS Notes - Miss
<p>1. The irrigation device called 'Araghatta' was</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. a water bag made of leather pulled over a pulley</li><li>b. a large wheel with earthen pots tied to the outer ends of its spokes</li><li>c. a larger earthen pot driven by bullocks</li><li>d. a large water bucket pulled up by rope directly by hand</li></ul> <p><b>Correct Option: (b)</b></p>	<p><b>Explanation:</b></p> <p>Araghatta is a Persian wheel, a mechanical water-lifting device used for irrigation in medieval India. It's a wheel with buckets or pots attached, rotated by animals like bullocks or camels, raising water from wells to irrigate fields. The name "Araghatta" comes from the Sanskrit words "ara" (spoke) and "ghatta" (pot), referring to the structure of the wheel.</p>

2. 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?

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

**Correct Option: (c)**

### PrepMate IAS Ancient and Medieval History & Culture, Page 181

#### **Rajendra I (AD 1014–1044)**

- Mahinda V attempted to recover the Northern part of Ceylon. Rajendra defeated him and made whole of Sri Lanka a part of the Chola Empire.
- His most famous expedition was to North India. The Chola army crossed the Ganges by defeating Mahipala I of Bengal. To commemorate his successful North-Indian campaign, he founded the city of Gangaikonda Cholapuram and constructed the famous Rajesvaram temple in that city.
- Rajendra I assumed various titles like Mudikondan, Gangaikondan, Kadaram Kondan, and Pandita Cholan.
- He built Gangaikonda cholapuram temple dedicated to Lord Shiva (presently in Ariyalur district of Tamil Nadu).

### Current Affairs, October 2024 Edition, Page 31

#### **Connection with Imperial Cholas and Srivijaya**

##### **1. Chola Empire's Naval Expeditions:**

**O Historical Records:** The Andaman Islands were referenced in the context of Chola Empire expeditions during the reign of Rajendra Chola I in the 11th century. The Cholas are believed to have used the islands as a naval base for their campaign against the Srivijaya Empire, located in what is now Indonesia.