

GENERAL AWARENESS – ART & CULTURE OF INDIA

Chapter: Art and Culture of India

Subject:	General Awareness
Total Questions:	70 MCQs
Question Type:	Multiple Choice (Single Correct Answer)
Exam Relevance:	UPSC, SSC CGL/CHSL, IBPS, RRB, State PSC, Defence Exams
Topics Covered:	Classical Dances, Music, Folk Dances, Paintings, Monuments, Festivals, Literature, UNESCO Heritage
Based On:	Static GK + Latest Current Affairs 2024–2026

★ ■ CLASSICAL DANCE FORMS ★

Q1. How many classical dance forms are recognised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi of India?

- A) 6
- B) 7
- C) 8
- D) 10

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 8**

■ *Explanation: The Sangeet Natak Akademi recognises 8 classical dance forms: Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Kathakali, Manipuri, Kuchipudi, Odissi, Mohiniyattam, and Sattriya.*

Q2. Bharatanatyam is the classical dance form of which Indian state?

- A) Kerala
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Karnataka

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Tamil Nadu**

■ *Explanation: Bharatanatyam is one of India's oldest classical dance forms, originating from the temples of Tamil Nadu. It was traditionally performed by Devadasis as an offering to the deities.*

Q3. Kathakali classical dance originated from which state?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Karnataka
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Kerala

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Kerala**

■ *Explanation: Kathakali is a classical dance-drama from Kerala, famous for its elaborate costumes, heavy make-up, and martial art influences. It enacts themes from Mahabharata and Ramayana.*

Q4. Kathak was traditionally performed in courts and was NOT primarily a temple dance. Kathak is associated with which region?

- A) South India
- B) North India (Lucknow & Jaipur gharanas)
- C) East India
- D) Northeast India

✓ **Correct Answer: B) North India (Lucknow & Jaipur gharanas)**

■ *Explanation: Kathak is the classical dance form of North India, with two major gharanas — the Lucknow Gharana (known for grace and expressiveness) and the Jaipur Gharana (known for vigorous footwork).*

Q5. Manipuri classical dance is associated with which religion and deity?

- A) Shaivism – Lord Shiva
- B) Vaishnavism – Lord Krishna
- C) Buddhism – Lord Buddha
- D) Shaktism – Goddess Durga

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Vaishnavism – Lord Krishna**

■ *Explanation: Manipuri dance is a devotional performance form from Manipur, closely associated with Vaishnavism and the worship of Lord Krishna and Radha.*

Q6. Kuchipudi is the classical dance form of which Indian state?

- A) Odisha
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Andhra Pradesh (Telangana region)
- D) Kerala

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Andhra Pradesh (Telangana region)**

■ *Explanation: Kuchipudi is the classical dance form of Andhra Pradesh, originating in the village of Kuchipudi in Krishna district. It combines dance, drama, and music.*

Q7. Odissi classical dance is associated with which state, and is dedicated to which deity?

- A) West Bengal – Goddess Kali
- B) Odisha – Lord Jagannath/Vishnu
- C) Assam – Lord Shiva
- D) Manipur – Lord Krishna

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Odisha – Lord Jagannath/Vishnu**

■ *Explanation: Odissi is a classical dance form from Odisha, one of India's oldest surviving dance traditions. It is devotionally associated with Lord Jagannath (a form of Vishnu) and was performed in the Puri temple.*

Q8. Which classical dance was most recently recognised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2000?

- A) Mohiniyattam
- B) Kathakali
- C) Sattriya
- D) Kuchipudi

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Sattriya**

■ *Explanation: Sattriya, from Assam, was the most recently added classical dance form, recognised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2000. It was created by the Vaishnavite saint Srimanta Sankardev in the 15th century.*

Q9. Mohiniyattam is a graceful classical dance form from which state?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Karnataka
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Kerala

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Kerala**

■ *Explanation: Mohiniyattam is a classical dance form from Kerala, characterized by its graceful, swaying movements. 'Mohini' means the enchantress (a form of Vishnu) and 'attam' means dance.*

Q10. Sanjukta Panigrahi was a legendary exponent of which classical dance form?

- A) Bharatanatyam
- B) Kathak
- C) Odissi
- D) Manipuri

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Odissi**

■ *Explanation: Sanjukta Panigrahi was one of the foremost classical dancers of India, renowned for her contribution to the Odissi dance form from Odisha.*

Q11. Lavani and Tamasha are folk dance-drama traditions of which Indian state?

- A) Goa
- B) Bihar
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Rajasthan

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Maharashtra**

■ *Explanation: Lavani and Tamasha are vibrant folk performing arts from Maharashtra. Lavani is a powerful rhythmic dance, while Tamasha is a traditional Marathi theatre combining songs, dance, and drama.*

Q12. Bhangra is the traditional folk dance of which Indian state?

- A) Haryana
- B) Himachal Pradesh
- C) Punjab
- D) Rajasthan

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Punjab**

■ *Explanation: Bhangra is the energetic and vibrant folk dance of Punjab, traditionally performed during the Baisakhi harvest festival. It is now celebrated across India and the world.*

Q13. Garba dance is the traditional folk dance associated with which festival and state?

- A) Onam – Kerala
- B) Navratri – Gujarat
- C) Durga Puja – West Bengal
- D) Pongal – Tamil Nadu

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Navratri – Gujarat**

■ *Explanation: Garba is a traditional circular folk dance from Gujarat, performed during the nine-night festival of Navratri. It is a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.*

Q14. Nautanki is a traditional folk dance/theatre from which state?

- A) Haryana
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Gujarat

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Uttar Pradesh**

■ *Explanation: Nautanki is a traditional folk theatre and dance form from Uttar Pradesh and the broader North Indian region, known for its musical storytelling and colourful performances.*

Q15. The Sarhul Festival is celebrated by Adivasi communities in which state?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Karnataka
- C) Jharkhand
- D) Mizoram

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Jharkhand**

■ *Explanation: Sarhul is celebrated by Adivasi (tribal) communities including Oraon, Munda, Santal in Jharkhand and the Chotanagpur region. 'Sarhul' means 'worship of the Sal tree', symbolising the union of the Sun and Earth.*

Q16. Rongali Bihu (Bohag Bihu) is celebrated as the Assamese New Year. When is it celebrated?

- A) January 1
- B) Around April 14-20
- C) November 1
- D) March 22

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Around April 14-20**

■ *Explanation: Rongali Bihu (also called Bohag Bihu) is celebrated from April 14–20, marking the Assamese New Year and the beginning of the agricultural sowing season. 'Rongali' comes from 'Rong' meaning joy.*

Q17. Ephumura is an ancient folk dance of which state?

- A) Bihar
- B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Odisha
- D) Rajasthan

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Odisha**

■ *Explanation: Ephumura is an ancient traditional folk dance that belongs to Odisha, reflecting the rich tribal cultural heritage of the state.*

Q18. Madhavpur Ghed Fair is organized annually in which Indian state?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Gujarat
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Goa

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Gujarat**

■ *Explanation: Madhavpur Ghed fair is organized every year in Gujarat, near Porbandar, celebrating the legendary marriage of Lord Krishna with Rukmini. It is a major cultural event promoting Northeast India's tribal connection with Gujarat.*

★ ■ **MUSIC – CLASSICAL & INSTRUMENTS** ★

Q19. Ustad Bismillah Khan is associated with which Indian classical musical instrument?

- A) Tabla
- B) Sitar
- C) Sarod
- D) Shehnai

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Shehnai**

■ *Explanation: Ustad Bismillah Khan was one of India's greatest musicians, celebrated for his mastery of the Shehnai — a woodwind instrument. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2001.*

Q20. Shiv Kumar Sharma is famous for playing which instrument?

- A) Sitar
- B) Sarod
- C) Santoor
- D) Flute

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Santoor**

■ *Explanation: Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma was a legendary musician who popularised the Santoor — a traditional Kashmiri string instrument — in Hindustani classical music.*

Q21. Indian classical music is broadly divided into which two major systems?

- A) Carnatic and Hindustani
- B) Vedic and Folk
- C) Dravidian and Aryan
- D) North and South

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Carnatic and Hindustani**

■ *Explanation: Indian classical music is divided into two major systems: Hindustani (North Indian, influenced by Persian and Mughal culture) and Carnatic (South Indian, more devotional in nature).*

Q22. The 'Ragas' in Indian classical music are:

- A) Melodic frameworks for improvisation
- B) Rhythmic cycles
- C) Specific musical instruments
- D) Vocal compositions only

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Melodic frameworks for improvisation**

■ *Explanation: Ragas are the melodic frameworks or scales in Indian classical music used for improvisation. Each raga has specific ascending (Arohana) and descending (Avarohana) note patterns and is associated with specific times or seasons.*

Q23. Pandit Ravi Shankar is associated with which instrument and is considered a key figure in which music genre?

- A) Tabla – Carnatic
- B) Sitar – Hindustani Classical
- C) Flute – Folk
- D) Santoor – Classical Fusion

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Sitar – Hindustani Classical**

■ *Explanation: Pandit Ravi Shankar was a sitar maestro and a globally celebrated exponent of Hindustani Classical music. He brought Indian classical music to international audiences.*

Q24. The Sarod typically has how many main strings?

- A) 4
- B) 6
- C) 7
- D) 9

✓ **Correct Answer: D) 9**

■ *Explanation: The Sarod typically has 9 main strings (though variations exist). It is a plucked string instrument used in Hindustani classical music, associated with maestros like Amjad Ali Khan.*

Q25. The folk painting style 'Madhubani' (Mithila art) is popular in which Indian state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Bihar
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) West Bengal

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Bihar**

■ *Explanation: Madhubani painting (also called Mithila art) is a vibrant and symbolic folk painting tradition from the Mithila region of Bihar. It uses natural colours and features geometric patterns and mythological themes.*

Q26. Who painted the iconic 'Bharat Mata' painting, symbolising the nation?

- A) Gaganendranath Tagore
- B) Nandalal Bose
- C) Jamini Roy
- D) Abanindranath Tagore

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Abanindranath Tagore**

■ *Explanation: Abanindranath Tagore, a prominent figure in the Bengal School of Art and nephew of Rabindranath Tagore, painted the iconic 'Bharat Mata' depicting India as a four-armed goddess.*

Q27. The Lalit Kala Akademi is India's national academy dedicated to promoting:

- A) Literature
- B) Fine Arts (Visual Arts)
- C) Music and Dance
- D) Theatre and Drama

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Fine Arts (Visual Arts)**

■ *Explanation: The Lalit Kala Akademi (National Academy of Art) was founded in 1954 and is dedicated to promoting and developing fine arts (painting, sculpture, graphic arts) in India.*

Q28. Warli painting is a tribal art form associated with which state?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Odisha

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Maharashtra**

■ *Explanation: Warli painting is a form of tribal art practised by the Warli tribe of Maharashtra and Gujarat border areas. It uses simple geometric shapes (triangles, circles, squares) on a mud ground in white.*

Q29. Pattachitra is a traditional cloth-based scroll painting from which state?

- A) West Bengal and Odisha
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Madhya Pradesh

✓ **Correct Answer: A) West Bengal and Odisha**

■ *Explanation: Pattachitra is a traditional painting style from both Odisha and West Bengal. In Odisha, it is associated with the Jagannath temple and depicts mythological narratives on cloth or palm leaf.*

Q30. The Saudagari block print that recently received a GI (Geographical Indication) tag is from which region?

- A) Jaipur, Rajasthan
- B) Surat, Gujarat
- C) Lucknow, UP
- D) Puri, Odisha

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Surat, Gujarat**

■ *Explanation: The Saudagari block print from Surat, Gujarat, received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag as reported in 2025 current affairs, recognising this traditional textile print as a unique cultural heritage.*

Q31. The traditional puppetry art form of Rajasthan is called:

- A) Togalu Gombeyatta
- B) Kathputli
- C) Bommalattam
- D) Yampuri

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Kathputli**

■ *Explanation: Kathputli is the traditional string puppetry art form of Rajasthan. 'Kath' means wood and 'putli' means puppet. It is one of India's oldest forms of entertainment.*

Q32. The Great Stupa at Sanchi was built by which Mauryan emperor?

- A) Chandragupta Maurya
- B) Bindusara
- C) Emperor Ashoka
- D) Harshavardhana

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Emperor Ashoka**

■ *Explanation: Emperor Ashoka built the original Great Stupa at Sanchi in the 3rd century BCE. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the oldest stone structures in India.*

Q33. Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was the capital of which empire?

- A) Mughal Empire
- B) Chola Empire
- C) Gupta Empire
- D) Vijayanagara Empire

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Vijayanagara Empire**

■ *Explanation: Hampi (in present-day Karnataka) was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire, known for its magnificent Dravidian temples, particularly the Virupaksha Temple.*

Q34. Which historical monument is known as the 'Symbol of Love'?

- A) Red Fort
- B) Qutub Minar
- C) Taj Mahal
- D) Hawa Mahal

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Taj Mahal**

■ *Explanation: The Taj Mahal in Agra, built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, is called the 'Symbol of Love'. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Wonders of the World.*

Q35. The Ajanta Caves are famous for their Buddhist paintings and sculptures. They are located in which state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Karnataka
- D) Gujarat

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Maharashtra**

■ *Explanation: The Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, are a series of Buddhist rock-cut cave monuments with paintings and sculptures dating from the 2nd century BCE to about 480 CE. UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

Q36. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered four ancient rock art sites in which northeastern state in 2025, dating from 16th to 19th centuries?

- A) Nagaland
- B) Manipur
- C) Mizoram
- D) Tripura

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Mizoram**

■ *Explanation: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered four ancient rock art sites in Mizoram in 2025, with artworks dating between the 16th and 19th centuries, offering insights into the region's rich heritage.*

Q37. The Konark Sun Temple (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) is located in which state?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Gujarat
- D) Odisha

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Odisha**

■ *Explanation: The Konark Sun Temple in Odisha is a 13th-century temple dedicated to the Sun God Surya, designed in the shape of a colossal chariot with 12 pairs of stone wheels. UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

Q38. Which Mughal emperor built the Red Fort (Lal Qila) in Delhi?

- A) Akbar
- B) Jahangir
- C) Shah Jahan
- D) Aurangzeb

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Shah Jahan**

■ *Explanation: The Red Fort in Delhi was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in 1639. It served as the main residence of the Mughal Emperors for nearly 200 years. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

★ ■ LITERATURE & LANGUAGES ★

Q39. Who wrote the Sanskrit epic poem 'Abhijnanasakuntalam'?

- A) Bhavabhuti
- B) Banabhatta
- C) Vishakhadatta
- D) Kalidasa

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Kalidasa**

■ *Explanation: Kalidasa, the greatest classical Sanskrit poet and dramatist, wrote Abhijnanasakuntalam. Other notable works include Meghaduta, Raghuvamsha, and Kumarasambhava.*

Q40. Who is the author of the ancient Indian epic 'Ramayana'?

- A) Tulsidas
- B) Vyasa
- C) Valmiki
- D) Kalidasa

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Valmiki**

■ *Explanation: The original Sanskrit Ramayana was composed by the sage Valmiki, often called the 'Adi Kavi' (first poet). Tulsidas wrote the Ramcharitmanas, a later Hindi version of the Ramayana.*

Q41. Tamil is one of India's classical languages. How many classical languages has the Central Government recognised (as of 2024)?

- A) 4
- B) 6
- C) 8
- D) 11

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 8**

■ *Explanation: As of 2024, the Government of India has recognised 8 classical languages: Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, and Pali. Marathi and Pali were added in 2024.*

Q42. The Sangeet Natak Akademi, Sahitya Akademi, and Lalit Kala Akademi are India's three national academies. Which one is dedicated to literature?

- A) Sangeet Natak Akademi
- B) Lalit Kala Akademi
- C) Sahitya Akademi
- D) National Book Trust

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Sahitya Akademi**

■ *Explanation: Sahitya Akademi (National Academy of Letters) promotes literature and literary exchanges. Sangeet Natak Akademi covers music, dance, and drama. Lalit Kala Akademi covers visual arts.*

Q43. Who wrote the Sanskrit play and political treatise 'Mudrarakshasa'?

- A) Kalidasa
- B) Vishakhadatta
- C) Banabhatta
- D) Bhavabhuti

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Vishakhadatta**

■ *Explanation: Mudrarakshasa is a Sanskrit political drama written by Vishakhadatta, depicting the ascension of Chandragupta Maurya to the throne with the help of Chanakya (Kautilya).*

★ ■ FESTIVALS OF INDIA ★

Q44. Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated with the greatest enthusiasm in which Indian state?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Gujarat
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Madhya Pradesh

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Maharashtra**

■ *Explanation: Ganesh Chaturthi is a major Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Lord Ganesha. It is observed with greatest grandeur in Maharashtra, especially Mumbai, Pune, and Nashik.*

Q45. Onam is the harvest festival of which Indian state?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Karnataka
- D) Kerala

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Kerala**

■ *Explanation: Onam is the most important festival of Kerala, celebrated to welcome the mythical King Mahabali. The 10-day festival features Pookalam (flower rangoli), Vallam Kali (boat race), and Onam Sadhya (feast).*

Q46. Pongal is the harvest festival of which Indian state, typically celebrated in January?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Kerala

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Tamil Nadu**

■ *Explanation: Pongal is the major harvest festival of Tamil Nadu, celebrated in January (Thai month) to thank the Sun God, rain, and farm animals for a good harvest. 'Pongal' means 'to boil over' (abundance).*

Q47. Nowruz (Persian New Year) was introduced in India by which Mughal/Sultanate ruler?

- A) Alauddin Khalji
- B) Iltutmish
- C) Firoz Tughlaq
- D) Balban

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Firoz Tughlaq**

■ *Explanation: Firoz Tughlaq (Firoz Shah Tughlaq) introduced the Persian festival Nowruz in India. Nowruz marks the Persian New Year and is celebrated by Parsi and Iranian communities.*

Q48. The UN Day of Vesak 2025 was celebrated in which country, and which sacred relic from India was sent there?

- A) Thailand – Bodhi Tree sapling
- B) Vietnam – Buddha Relic from Sarnath
- C) Sri Lanka – Ashoka Pillar
- D) Japan – Gandhara Statue

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Vietnam – Buddha Relic from Sarnath**

■ *Explanation: The UN Day of Vesak 2025 was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (May 6–8). In a historic first, the sacred Buddha Relic from Sarnath, India, was sent to Vietnam for special exposition.*

Q49. Kumbh Mela is held at four locations in India. Which of these is NOT one of them?

- A) Prayagraj
- B) Nashik
- C) Ujjain
- D) Varanasi

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Varanasi**

■ *Explanation: Kumbh Mela rotates among four sacred cities: Prayagraj (Allahabad), Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain. Varanasi, though a holy city, is NOT one of the Kumbh Mela locations.*

Q50. Garba dance of Gujarat was inscribed as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in which year?

- A) 2019
- B) 2021
- C) 2023
- D) 2024

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 2023**

■ *Explanation: Garba of Gujarat was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2023 during the 18th session of the UNESCO Committee.*

★ ■ UNESCO HERITAGE & GI TAGS ★

Q51. Yoga was inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list in which year?

- A) 2014
- B) 2016
- C) 2018
- D) 2020

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 2016**

■ *Explanation: Yoga was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2016. India also celebrates June 21 as International Yoga Day, established by the UN in 2015.*

Q52. Kumbh Mela was added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list in which year?

- A) 2015
- B) 2016
- C) 2017
- D) 2019

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 2017**

■ *Explanation: Kumbh Mela was inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2017. It is the world's largest peaceful gathering of people.*

Q53. Vedic Chanting was one of the first Indian elements inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. When was it inscribed?

- A) 2001
- B) 2003
- C) 2005
- D) 2008

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 2003**

■ *Explanation: Vedic Chanting (tradition of Vedic recitation) was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List in 2003, recognising India's ancient oral tradition of preserving the Vedas.*

Q54. Eri Silk, primarily produced in Northeast India (especially Assam), received global certification in 2025. Eri Silk is also known as:

- A) Peace Silk / Ahimsa Silk
- B) Mulberry Silk
- C) Tasar Silk
- D) Muga Silk

✓ **Correct Answer: A) Peace Silk / Ahimsa Silk**

■ *Explanation: Eri Silk is known as 'Peace Silk' or 'Ahimsa Silk' because the silkworm is not killed during the process — it is allowed to emerge from the cocoon naturally. It received global certification in 2025.*

Q55. Kutiyattam is an ancient Sanskrit theatre tradition from Kerala, recognised by UNESCO in 2001. It is believed to be how old?

- A) 500 years
- B) 1000 years
- C) 2000 years
- D) Over 2,000 years

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Over 2,000 years**

■ *Explanation: Kutiyattam is Kerala's ancient Sanskrit theatre form, believed to be over 2,000 years old. It was the first performing art form from India inscribed on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2001.*

Q56. The National School of Drama (NSD) is located in which city?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Kolkata
- C) Bhopal
- D) New Delhi

✓ **Correct Answer: D) New Delhi**

■ *Explanation: The National School of Drama (NSD) is located in New Delhi. It is one of India's foremost theatre training institutions, established in 1959.*

Q57. Satyajit Ray, the legendary Indian filmmaker, was primarily associated with which field?

- A) Classical Dance
- B) Classical Music
- C) Film Direction
- D) Journalism

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Film Direction**

■ *Explanation: Satyajit Ray was a legendary Bengali filmmaker known for the Apu Trilogy (Pather Panchali, Aparajito, Apur Sansar). He received the Academy Honorary Award in 1992 and the Bharat Ratna in 1992.*

Q58. What was the first Indian talkie film (first film with sound)?

- A) Raja Harishchandra
- B) Kisan Kanya
- C) Alam Ara
- D) Bharat Mata

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Alam Ara**

■ *Explanation: Alam Ara (1931), directed by Ardeshir Irani, was India's first talkie (sound) film. Raja Harishchandra (1913) was India's first silent feature film.*

Q59. Tamasha is the traditional theatre form of which state, which combines songs, dance, and drama?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) West Bengal

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Maharashtra**

■ *Explanation: Tamasha is the traditional Marathi folk theatre of Maharashtra. It combines energetic dance, music, and drama, typically narrating mythological and social themes.*

Q60. Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form from which state?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Kerala
- D) Karnataka

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Karnataka**

■ *Explanation: Yakshagana is a traditional theatre art form from Karnataka that combines dance, music, dialogue, and elaborate costumes. It typically depicts mythological stories.*

Q61. The religious text of the Jewish people is the:

- A) Analects
- B) Torah
- C) Tripitaka
- D) Zend-Avesta

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Torah**

■ *Explanation: The Torah is the central and most important religious text of Judaism (the Jewish religion). Analects is associated with Confucianism, Tripitaka with Buddhism, and Zend-Avesta with Zoroastrianism.*

★ ■ RELIGIONS & PHILOSOPHY ★

Q62. Papeti is the festival celebrated by which religious community in India?

- A) Sikhs
- B) Jains
- C) Parsis (Zoroastrians)
- D) Christians

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Parsis (Zoroastrians)**

■ *Explanation: Papeti is the Parsi (Zoroastrian) New Year celebration. The Parsi community in India, mainly in Gujarat and Mumbai, follows the Zoroastrian religion and celebrates Papeti as a major festival.*

Q63. The Ajmer Sharif Dargah, a major Sufi shrine, is the dargah of which saint?

- A) Nizamuddin Auliya
- B) Moinuddin Chishti
- C) Salim Chishti
- D) Amir Khusrau

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Moinuddin Chishti**

■ *Explanation: The Ajmer Sharif Dargah in Rajasthan is the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, founder of the Chishti order of Sufism in India. It is one of the most revered Islamic pilgrimage sites in South Asia.*

Q64. Pashmina shawls are famous handicrafts from which region of India?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Jammu & Kashmir
- C) West Bengal
- D) Himachal Pradesh

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Jammu & Kashmir**

■ *Explanation: Pashmina shawls are renowned luxury handicrafts from Kashmir, made from the ultra-fine wool of the Changthangi (Pashmina) goat found in the high-altitude Changthang plateau.*

★ ■ HANDICRAFTS, TEXTILES & TRIBES ★

Q65. The language spoken by the people of Lakshadweep is:

- A) Tamil
- B) Telugu
- C) Malayalam
- D) Kannada

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Malayalam**

■ *Explanation: Malayalam is the official language of Lakshadweep, the smallest Union Territory of India by area. The island territory is predominantly inhabited by a Muslim population of Malayali origin.*

Q66. Halbi, Ho, and Koi are associated with what in India?

- A) Dance forms
- B) Musical instruments
- C) Tribal languages
- D) Award-winning plays

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Tribal languages**

■ *Explanation: Halbi, Ho, and Koi are tribal languages spoken by indigenous communities mainly in central and eastern India (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha regions).*

Q67. The 'Dancing Girl' bronze sculpture is a famous artefact from which ancient civilisation?

- A) Gupta Empire
- B) Mauryan Empire
- C) Harappan (Indus Valley) Civilisation
- D) Vedic Period

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Harappan (Indus Valley) Civilisation**

■ *Explanation: The 'Dancing Girl' is a famous bronze sculpture discovered at Mohenjo-daro, dating to approximately 2500 BCE. It is one of the most iconic artefacts of the Harappan (Indus Valley) Civilisation.*

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Q68. The Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum announced by India in 2025 will showcase India's heritage spanning how many years?

- A) 2,000 years
- B) 3,000 years
- C) 5,000 years
- D) 7,000 years

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 5,000 years**

■ *Explanation: The Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum is planned in New Delhi to showcase India's 5,000-year civilisational heritage, encompassing art, culture, history, and traditions.*

Q69. The India-Nepal Literature Cultural Festival 2025 was held in which city of Uttar Pradesh?

- A) Ayodhya
- B) Varanasi
- C) Mathura (Vrindavan)
- D) Gorakhpur

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Mathura (Vrindavan)**

■ *Explanation: The three-day India-Nepal Literature Cultural Festival 2025 was organized in Vrindavan, Mathura (UP). More than 180 litterateurs from both countries participated to promote literary and cultural exchange.*

Q70. Which Indian state tops in terms of number of Geographical Indication (GI) tags awarded for cultural/handicraft products?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) West Bengal

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Tamil Nadu**

■ *Explanation: Tamil Nadu leads India in total GI-tagged products, including numerous textiles, handicrafts, and food items, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, reflecting the state's rich craft traditions.*

Q71. Project PARI (Public Art of India), launched in 2025, aims to:

- A) Preserve ancient manuscripts
- B) Revitalise public spaces through art
- C) Promote classical dance globally
- D) Build new museums in India

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Revitalise public spaces through art**

■ *Explanation: Project PARI (Public Art of India) was launched in March 2025 to revitalise public spaces through art across India, installing art works on walls, flyovers, and public areas to promote Indian artistic traditions.*

Q72. The Bengal School of Art was founded in the early 20th century. Which artist is considered its leading figure?

- A) Jamini Roy
- B) Raja Ravi Varma
- C) Abanindranath Tagore
- D) Nandalal Bose

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Abanindranath Tagore**

■ *Explanation: Abanindranath Tagore is considered the founder and leading figure of the Bengal School of Art, which aimed to revive traditional Indian art styles in opposition to Western art influences during the colonial period.*

Q73. Ramlila – the traditional performance of the Ramayana – was included in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in which year?

- A) 2005
- B) 2008
- C) 2010
- D) 2012

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 2008**

■ *Explanation: The Ramlila (traditional performance of the Ramayana) was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2008, recognising this dramatic re-enactment performed across North India during Navratri.*

Q74. The Sangeet Natak Akademi was established in which year?

- A) 1947
- B) 1952
- C) 1954
- D) 1960

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 1952**

■ *Explanation: The Sangeet Natak Akademi (National Academy of Music, Dance and Drama) was established in 1952, making it India's first national academy of the arts. Lalit Kala Akademi and Sahitya Akademi were also established in 1954.*

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