



Consistency. Right Direction. Discipline.

PRELIMS HISTORY PYQ MAPPING

PRELIMS 2026



RAJINIKANTH RAMAREDDIPETA

AIR 587 – CSE 2023

UPSC History PYQ Mapping from 2025 -2020

UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2025

Ancient History

1. Dancing Girl of Mohenjodaro – material? Theme: Indus Valley Civilization – Art & Metallurgy
2. Araghatta refers to what? Theme: Ancient irrigation technology
3. Fa-Hien visited India during whose reign? Theme: Gupta period – Foreign travellers
4. Correct Mahajanapada–river pairs (Asmaka, Kamboja, Avanti, Kosala)? Theme: Mahajanapadas & historical geography
5. Pradesika, Rajuka, Yukta were officers at which level? Theme: Mauryan administration
6. Who assumed titles Mattavilasa, Vichitrachitta, Gunabhara? Theme: Pallavas – royal titles
7. Who led expedition against Srivijaya kingdom? Theme: Chola naval expansion (Rajendra I)

Modern History

8. Non-Cooperation Programme – which activities were included? Theme: Gandhian mass movements
9. “Sedition has become my religion” – context? Theme: Civil Disobedience / Gandhian struggle
10. First Gandharva Mahavidyalaya (1901) established at? Theme: Cultural nationalism – music institutions
11. Who defended accused after Chauri Chaura incident? Theme: Freedom struggle – legal history
12. After which event did Gandhiji focus on Harijan upliftment? Theme: Social reform during freedom struggle
13. Founder of Self-Respect Movement? Theme: Non-Brahmin / social justice movements
14. Non-Cooperation Movement – Congress objective & strategy statements Theme: Congress resolutions & freedom struggle strategy

Medieval / Cultural Contact

15. Which fruits were introduced by the Portuguese? Theme: European contact & crop introduction

UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2024

Ancient History

1. Work attributed to Bhasa? Theme: Sanskrit literature
2. Sanghabhuti wrote commentary on which Buddhist text? Theme: Buddhism – texts & monks
3. Which epithets are correctly associated with Buddha? Theme: Buddha – identity & titles
4. Upanishads – content & chronology statements Theme: Ancient Indian philosophy

Medieval History

5. Which ruler allowed Portuguese fort at Bhatkal? Theme: Medieval polity & foreign interaction

Modern History

6. Government of India Act, 1935 – federation & powers Theme: Constitutional development
7. Cornwallis – revenue settlement related statements Theme: British land revenue systems

Art & Culture (History-linked)

8. Latest Indian element in UNESCO Intangible Heritage List Theme: Cultural heritage
9. UNESCO World Heritage Sites – India (recent inclusions) Theme: Heritage sites & chronology

UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2023

Ancient History

1. Dhanyakataka was a major centre of which Buddhist sect? Theme: Buddhist centres & sects
2. Stupa – origin, relics and votive nature (statements) Theme: Buddhist architecture
3. Korkai, Poompuhar and Muchiri were known for what? Theme: Ancient South Indian ports & trade
4. Vattakirutal mentioned in Sangam poems refers to what practice? Theme: Sangam society & warfare customs
5. Which sect believed that souls exist in rocks, running water, etc.? Theme: Ancient Indian religious sects (Ajivikas)

6. Stupa-related statement-based MCQ (Buddhist religious structure) Theme: Early Buddhist religious practices

Medieval History

7. Early 8th century kingdoms – Hoysala, Gahadavala, Kakatiya, Yadava (how many?) Theme: Early medieval polity & chronology
8. Which ruler of Gujarat surrendered Diu to the Portuguese? Theme: Late medieval India & European contact

Modern / Colonial History

9. Governor of Bengal – statement-based question on powers/administration Theme: Early British administration in India
10. Portuguese acquisition of Diu is associated with which ruler? Theme: Early colonial expansion in India
11. Alexander Rea, A.H. Longhurst, Robert Sewell, James Burgess, Walter Elliot were associated with what? Theme: Colonial archaeology & British institutions

Art & Culture (History-rooted)

12. Ancient religious belief-based MCQ (soul/philosophical idea) Theme: Indian philosophical traditions
13. Buddhist architectural feature identification Theme: Ancient Indian art history

UPSC CSE PRELIMS 2022

Ancient & Religion

1. Which of these texts are Jaina texts? Theme: Religion & ancient literature (Jainism)
2. How many pairs are correctly matched — Aryadeva (Jaina), Dignāga (Buddhist), Nathamuni (Vaishnava)? Theme: Ancient scholars & religious traditions
3. Consider these Buddhist Stupa statements — origin, relics, votive nature (MCQ) Theme: Buddhist architecture & symbolism
4. Korkai, Poompuhar and Muchiri were known for what? Theme: Ancient port towns & maritime trade

Medieval India

5. First Mongol invasion of India — statements about invasions under Khalji / Tughluq Theme: Medieval foreign invasions & Delhi Sultanate
6. Who of the following were called “Kulah-Daran”? Theme: Medieval social groups & cultural labels

7. Consider statements about a medieval site / architectural match Theme: Medieval Indian sites & significance
8. Fanam — coin associated with which region/period? Theme: Medieval Indian currency system
9. Which ruler surrendered Diu to the Portuguese? Theme: European contact in late medieval India

Modern / Colonial India

10. Who among the following was actively associated with the Ghadar Party? Theme: Revolutionary nationalism (Ghadar Movement)
11. Which statements about the Cripps Mission proposals are correct? Theme: Transfer of power negotiations & constitutional history
12. Government of India Act 1919 – distribution of subjects (Reserved / Transferred) Theme: British constitutional reforms
13. Industrial Revolution & its impact on India — MCQ Theme: Colonial economic transformation
14. Meaning/role of Banian / Mirasidar in colonial context Theme: Colonial socio-economic structures

Art & Culture (History-linked)

15. Ancient religious practices / sect belief — soul in rocks/rivers Theme: Indian religious sects & belief systems
16. Identification of ancient historical artefact/architecture Theme: Art & archaeological heritage (ancient)