

Previous Years UPSC Prelims Questions - Ancient Indian History [2013-2020]

The UPSC Prelims for 2021 will take place on 27th June 2021. Indian history has been an important segment of the IAS Exam for decades. Although far less in number in comparison to its medieval and modern history counterparts, questions from ancient Indian history will always be asked in the UPSC Exams without fail.

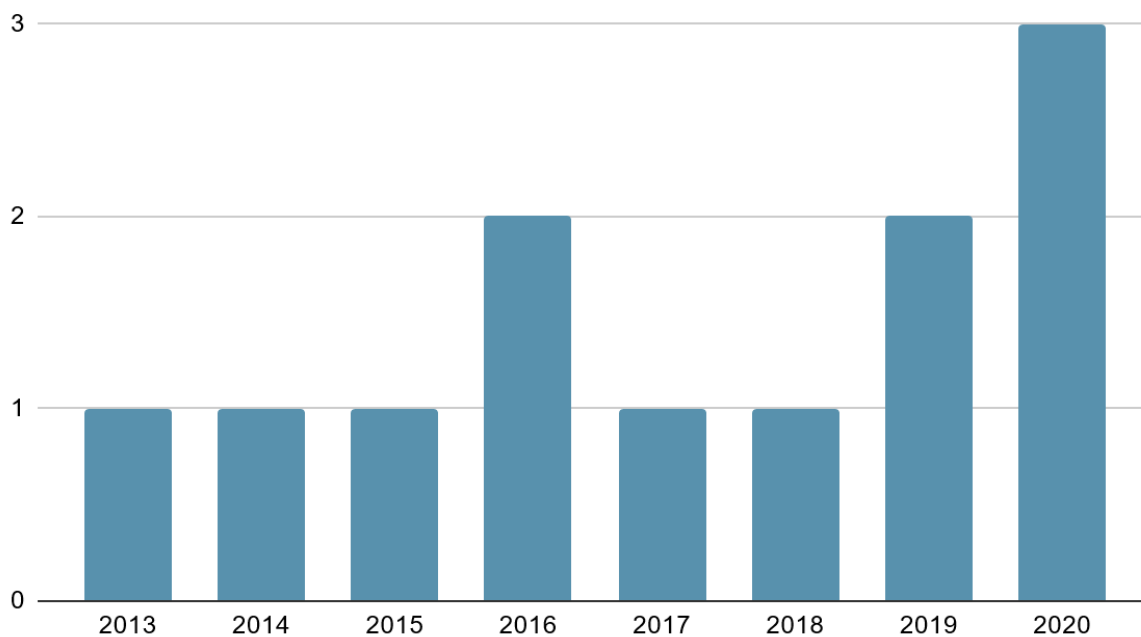
Candidates are advised to go through the old Ancient History Questions asked over the years for IAS Prelims 2021 revision.

This article will provide you with 2013-2020 Ancient History Questions that were asked in IAS Prelims Paper-I. Candidates can also download the questions and their answers PDF given in this article for the IAS Exam preparation.

Below we will present Ancient Indian History Questions through the years.

Ancient Indian History UPSC Questions (Year-Wise)

UPSC Prelims Ancient Indian History Questions



IAS Prelims Ancient Indian History Questions 2020

1. Which of the following phrases defines the nature of the 'Hundi' generally referred to in the sources of the post-Harsha period ?

- (a) An advisory issued by the king to his subordinates
- (b) A diary to be maintained for daily accounts
- (c) A bill of exchange
- (d) An order from the feudal lord to his subordinates

2. Who among the following rulers advised his subjects through this inscription ?

"Whosoever praises his religious sect or blames other sects out of excessive devotion to his own sect, with the view of glorifying his own sect, he rather injures his own sect very severely."

- (a) Ashoka
- (b) Samudragupta
- (c) Harshavardhana
- (a) Krishnadeva Raya

3 With reference to the period of Gupta dynasty in ancient India, the towns Ghantasala, Kadura and Chaul were well known as

- (a) ports handling foreign trade
- (b) capitals of powerful kingdoms
- (c) places of exquisite stone art and architecture
- (d) important Buddhist pilgrimage centres

Candidates can get the notes on the relevant articles from where the ancient history questions were asked in IAS Prelims 2020:

IAS Prelims Ancient Indian History Questions 2019

1. Which one of the following is not a Harappan site?

- (a) Chanhudaro
- (b) Kot Diji
- (c) Sohgaura
- (d) Desalpur

2. With reference to forced labour (Vishti) in India during the Gupta period, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It was considered a source of income for the State, a sort of tax paid by the people.
- (b) It was totally absent in the Madhya Pradesh and Kathiawar regions of the Gupta Empire.
- (c) The forced labourer was entitled to weekly wages.
- (d) The eldest son of the labourer was sent as the forced labourer.

Candidates can get the notes on the relevant articles from where the ancient history questions were asked in IAS Prelims 2019:

IAS Prelims Ancient Indian History Questions 2018

1. With reference to Indian history, who among the following is a future Buddha, yet to come to save the world?

- (a) Avalokiteshvara
- (b) Lokeshvara
- (c) Maitreya
- (d) Padmapani

Candidates can get the notes on the relevant articles from where the ancient history questions were asked in IAS Prelims 2018:

IAS Prelims Ancient Indian History Questions 2017

1. With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (1) Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.
- (2) Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.
- (3) Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Candidates can get the notes on the relevant articles from where the ancient history questions were asked in IAS Prelims 2017:

IAS Prelims Ancient Indian History Questions 2016

1. Which one of the following books of Ancient India has the love story of the son of the founder of the Sunga Dynasty?

- (a) Swapnavasavadatta
- (b) Malavikagnimitra
- (c) Meghadoota
- (d) Ratnavali

2. In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs:

Term	Description
Eripatti	Land, revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank
Taniyurs	Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins
Ghatikas	Colleges generally attached to the temples

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Candidates can get the notes on the relevant articles from where the ancient history questions were asked in IAS Prelims 2016:

IAS Prelims Ancient Indian History Questions 2015

1. Which of the following kingdoms were associated with the life of the Buddha?

1. Avanti
2. Gandhara
3. Kosala
4. Magadha

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) 3 and 4 only

Candidates can get the notes on the relevant articles from where the ancient history questions were asked in IAS Prelims 2015:

IAS Prelims Ancient Indian History Questions 2014

1. Which of the following kingdoms were associated with the life of the Buddha?

1. Avanti
2. Gandhara
3. Kosala
4. Magadha

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2 and 4
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4

Candidates can get the notes on the relevant articles from where the ancient history questions were asked in IAS Prelims 2014:

IAS Prelims Ancient Indian History Questions 2013

1. Which of the following characterizes/characterize the people of Indus Valley Civilization?

1. They possessed great palaces and temples

2. They worshipped both male and female deities
3. They employed horse-drawn chariots

Select the correct statement/statements using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None of the statements given above is correct

UPSC Prelims Ancient History Answers [2013-2020]

The answers of UPSC Ancient History Questions asked in Prelims from the year 2013 to 2020 is given in the table below:

2013-2020 IAS Prelims AncientHistory Questions with Solutions	
2020	1. C 2. A 3. A
2019	1. C 2. A
2018	1. C
2017	1. C
2016	1. B 2. D
2015	1. D
2014	1. C
2013	1. B

