

CURRENT AFFAIRS



MCQ PRACTICE



Week 115

THE TUTORS ACADEMY



QUESTION 1

Balapañjara in the ancient temple architecture refers to:

- (a) sanctum
- (b) horseshoe arch
- (c) south Indian shrine
- (d) none of the above





QUESTION 2

In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Mark your answer as per the codes provided:

Assertion (A): The presiding deity of Chalukya king Vijayaditya at Pattadakal Sangamesvara was called *Śrī-Vijayēśvara-Bhaṭṭāraka*.

Reason (R): Rulers named the presiding deities after themselves to assert their divine kingship.

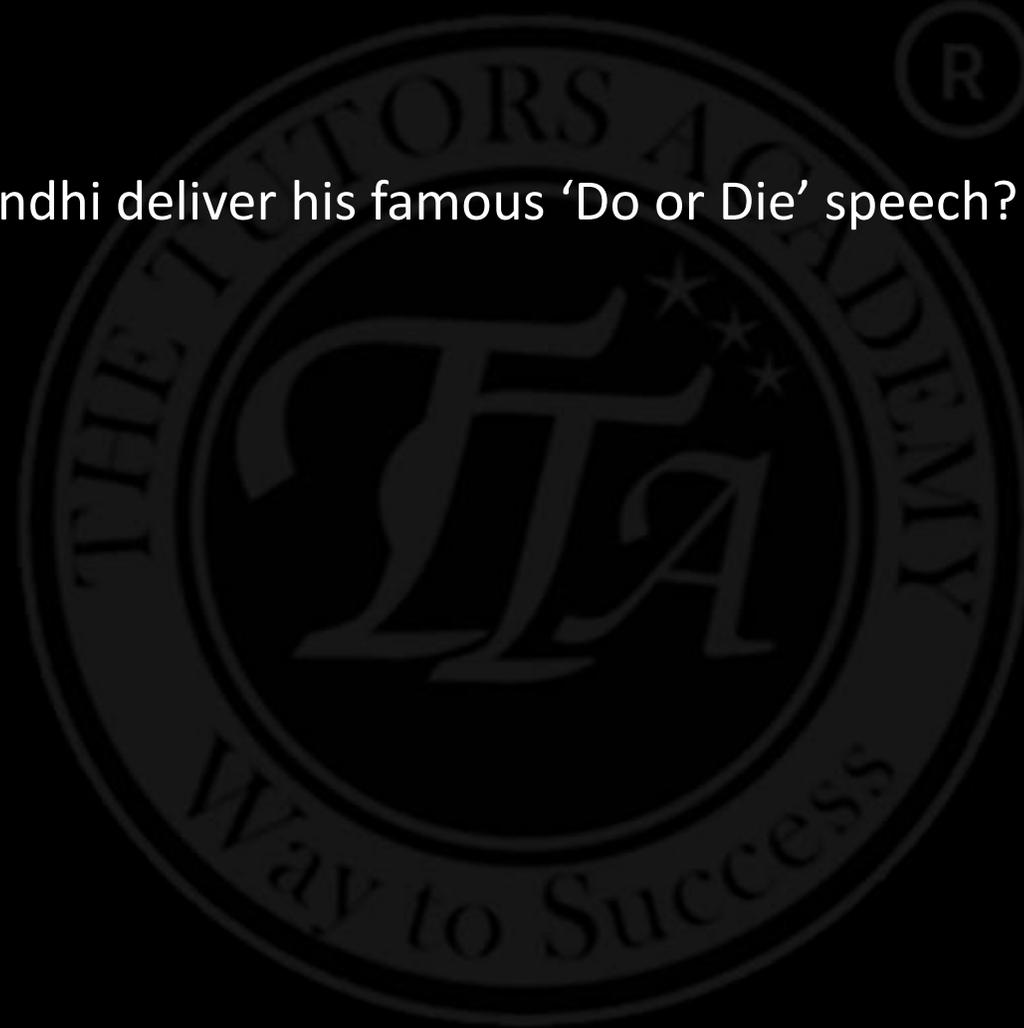
- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true



QUESTION 3

Where did Mahatma Gandhi deliver his famous 'Do or Die' speech?

- (a) Ahmedabad
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Sevagram
- (d) Johannesburg





QUESTION 4

Which of the following Viceroys of India was associated with the 'August Offer'?

- (a) Lord Linlithgow
- (b) Lord Mountbatten
- (c) Lord Irwin
- (d) Lord Dufferin





QUESTION 5

She co-edited a newspaper called *Inquilab* with Lohia. Post-independence, she left the Congress for the Communist Party of India. There, she founded the National Federation of Indian Women – the women's wing of the Communist Party of India. Who is *she* referred to in the above lines?

- (a) Begum Nishatunnisa Mohani
- (b) Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay
- (c) Aruna Asaf Ali
- (d) Purnima Banerjee



QUESTION 6

What does the term *vevanniyanti*, as seen in Buddhism, refer to?

- (a) working for the benefit of others
- (b) the process whereby suffering arises and how it can be brought to cessation
- (c) intentions and actions have consequences
- (d) one who is devoid of varna



QUESTION 7

Consider the following statements:

1. Vaibhasika and Sautrantika are the philosophical sects of Hinayana.
2. Yogacara and Madhyamika are the philosophical sects of Mahayana.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

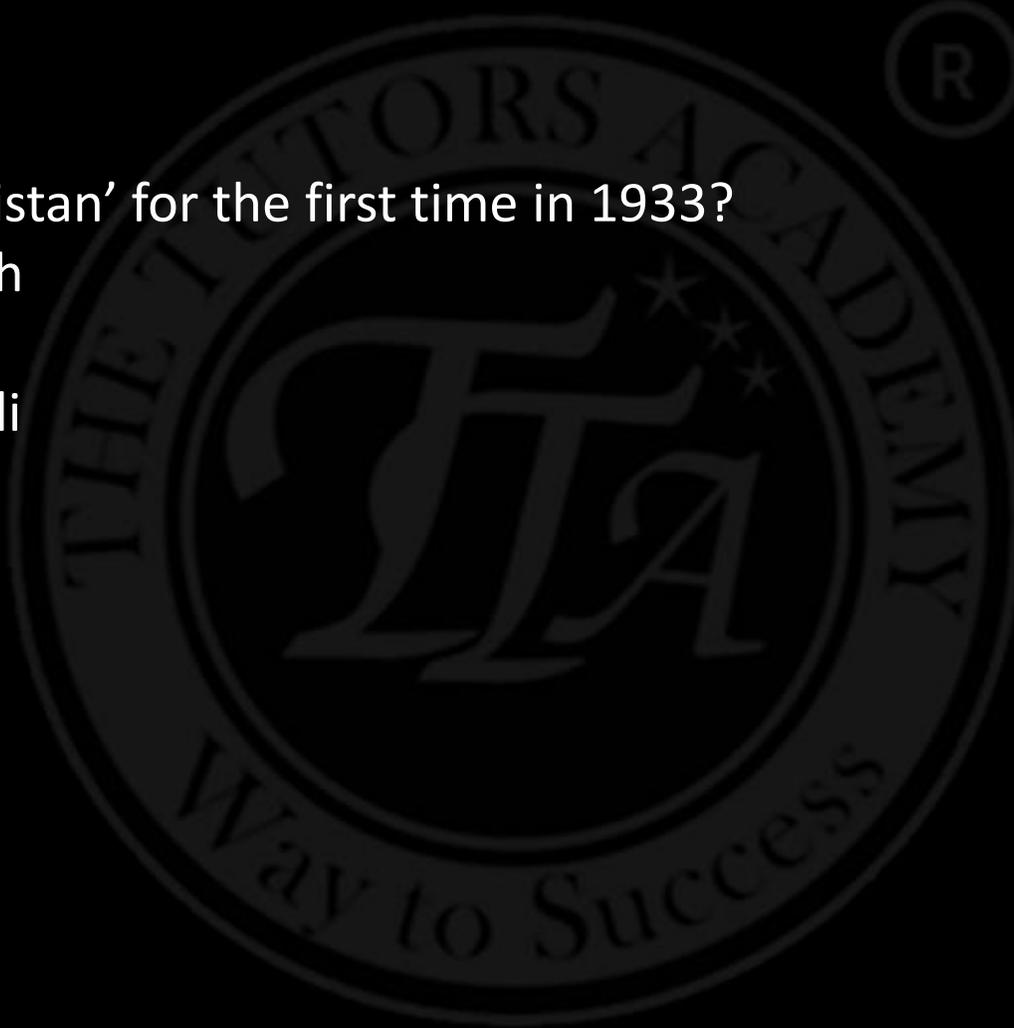
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2



QUESTION 8

Who used the term 'Pakistan' for the first time in 1933?

- (a) Muhammad Ali Jinnah
- (b) Allama Iqbal
- (c) Choudhary Rehmat Ali
- (d) None of the above





Week 115

Answers and Explanations



QUESTION 1

Balapañjara in the ancient temple architecture refers to:

- (a) sanctum
- (b) horseshoe arch
- (c) south Indian shrine
- (d) none of the above





1.Explanation

- ✓ The Nagara superstructure incorporated the *amalaka* (fluted bulbous capstone of a Nagara *śikhara*), *gavakṣa* (cow's eye motif or horseshoe arch), and *balapañjara* (naṣī-roofed cage aedicule) over pillarlets. The Dravidian *vimana* (south Indian shrine) featured *kūṭa* (domed aedicule), *śala*, (wagon-vault roofed aedicule), and *balapañjara*.
- ✓ Therefore, d is the correct answer.



QUESTION 2

In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Mark your answer as per the codes provided:

Assertion (A): The presiding deity of Chalukya king Vijayaditya at Pattadakal Sangamesvara was called *Śrī-Vijayēśvara-Bhaṭṭāraka*.

Reason (R): Rulers named the presiding deities after themselves to assert their divine kingship.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true



2.Explanation

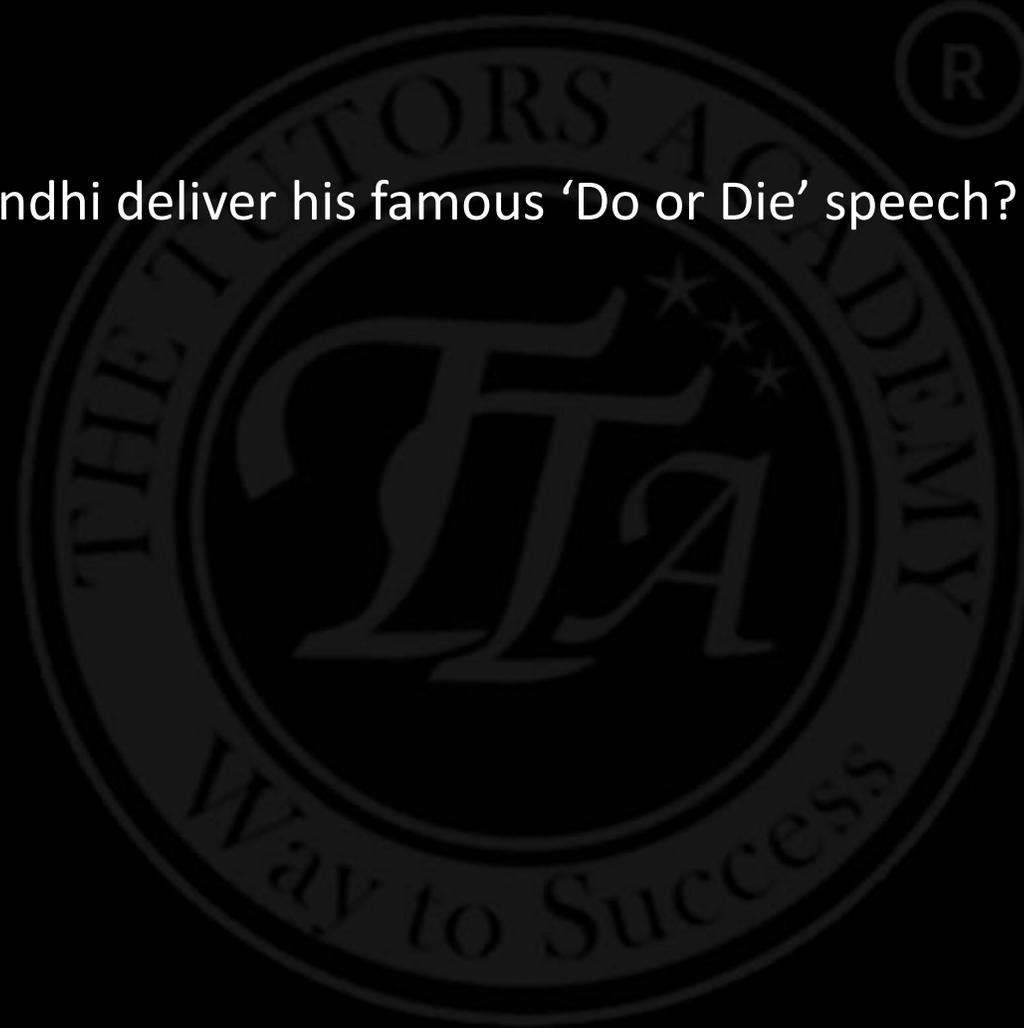
- ✓ Temples were often patronised by powerful kings to revere their favourite deity as well as assert, consolidate, and legitimise their overlordship over an existing or new domain. For example, Rajaraja Cola built the Thanjavur Brihadesvara temple to assert his supremacy over the region. Rulers also named the presiding deities after themselves to assert their divine kingship. For example, the presiding deity of Chalukya king Vijayaditya at Pattadakal Sangamesvara was called *Śrī-Vijayēśvara-Bhaṭṭāraka*.
- ✓ Therefore, a is the correct answer.



QUESTION 3

Where did Mahatma Gandhi deliver his famous 'Do or Die' speech?

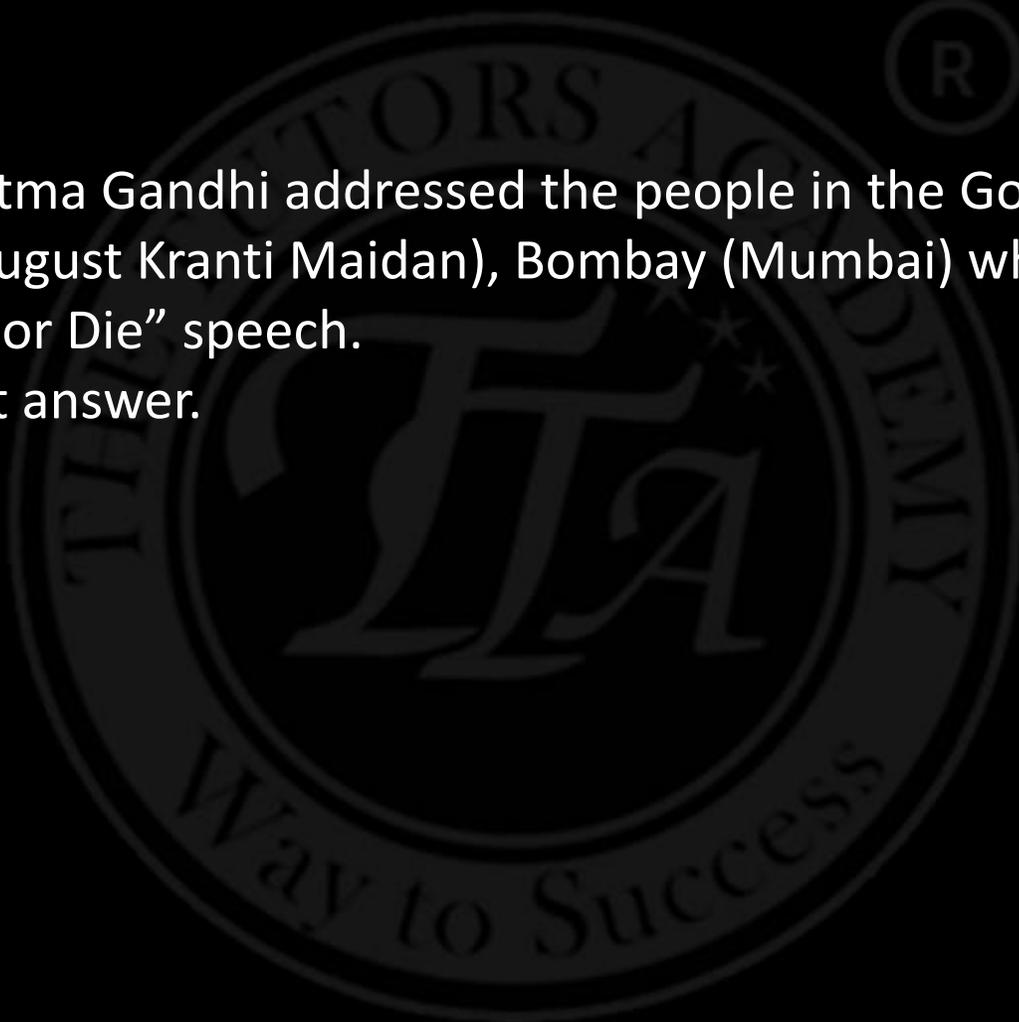
- (a) Ahmedabad
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Sevagram
- (d) Johannesburg





3.Explanation

- ✓ On August 8, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi addressed the people in the Gowalia Tank Maidan (now known as August Kranti Maidan), Bombay (Mumbai) where he delivered his famous “Do or Die” speech.
- ✓ Therefore, b is the correct answer.





QUESTION 4

Which of the following Viceroys of India was associated with the 'August Offer'?

- (a) Lord Linlithgow
- (b) Lord Mountbatten
- (c) Lord Irwin
- (d) Lord Dufferin





4.Explanation

- ✓ In the exhausting summer of 1942, an even more exhaustive talk was underway in Delhi between Indian freedom fighters and a mission led by Sir Stafford Cripps. The mission was sent by then British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to secure India's support for the Second World War.
- ✓ Before Cripps, Lord Linlithgow, then Viceroy of India, made what is known as the 'August offer' in 1940 and proposed dominion status to India but with veto power to the Muslim League and other minority leaders.
- ✓ Therefore, a is the correct answer.



QUESTION 5

She co-edited a newspaper called *Inquilab* with Lohia. Post-independence, she left the Congress for the Communist Party of India. There, she founded the National Federation of Indian Women – the women's wing of the Communist Party of India. Who is *she* referred to in the above lines?

- (a) Begum Nishatunnisa Mohani
- (b) Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay
- (c) Aruna Asaf Ali
- (d) Purnima Banerjee



5.Explanation

- ✓ Aruna co-edited a newspaper called '*Inquilab*' with Lohia and continued to struggle till 1946. Gandhi, particularly moved by her determination, wanted her to surrender. He wrote, "I have been filled with admiration for your courage and heroism. You are reduced to a skeleton. Do come out and surrender yourself and win the prize offered for your arrest. Reserve the prize money for the Harijan (untouchables') cause."
- ✓ Aruna, determined towards her socialist training only surrendered after the prize money over her was removed. Even after resurfacing and courting arrest, Aruna continued to voice her political opinions by supporting the Royal Indian Navy mutiny of HMIS (His Majesty's Indian Ship) Talwar.



- ✓ Post-independence, Aruna left the Congress for the Communist Party of India. There she created the 'National Federation of Indian Women'- women's wing of Communist Party of India. Aruna lost her husband in 1953. Asaf Ali by this time was the first ambassador to the United States from India. Although this role would have taken Aruna close to the Capitalist camp in the Cold War world, she chose to remain close to her ideological moorings.
- ✓ Therefore, c is the correct answer.



QUESTION 6

What does the term *vevanniyanti*, as seen in Buddhism, refer to?

- (a) working for the benefit of others
- (b) the process whereby suffering arises and how it can be brought to cessation
- (c) intentions and actions have consequences
- (d) one who is devoid of varna



6.Explanation

- ✓ The Buddha's dream of four birds of different types and colours flying in from four directions and sitting at his feet is often interpreted as symbolically showing that all varnas were part of Buddhism. Buddha also stated that anyone who joins the Sangha or the Buddhist monastic order becomes a *vevanniyanti* – one who is devoid of varna.
- ✓ Therefore, d is the correct answer.



QUESTION 7

Consider the following statements:

1. Vaibhasika and Sautrantika are the philosophical sects of Hinayana.
2. Yogacara and Madhyamika are the philosophical sects of Mahayana.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2



7.Explanation

✓ Theravada Buddhism

1. It is the conservative and orthodox form of Buddhism. Notably, followers of the older tradition described themselves as Theravadins, that is, those who followed the path of old, respected teachers, the *theras*.
2. It is spread in south and south-east Asia. Vaibhasika and Sautrantika are the philosophical sects of Hinayana.
3. It emphasizes the historical existence of a single Buddha, Gautama Shakyamuni and upholds Buddha's original doctrines and disciplines. It believes in individual salvation through self-discipline and meditation.
4. Scriptures were written in the Pali language. Emperor Ashoka played a significant role in spreading Theravada Buddhism.



✓ Mahayana Buddhism

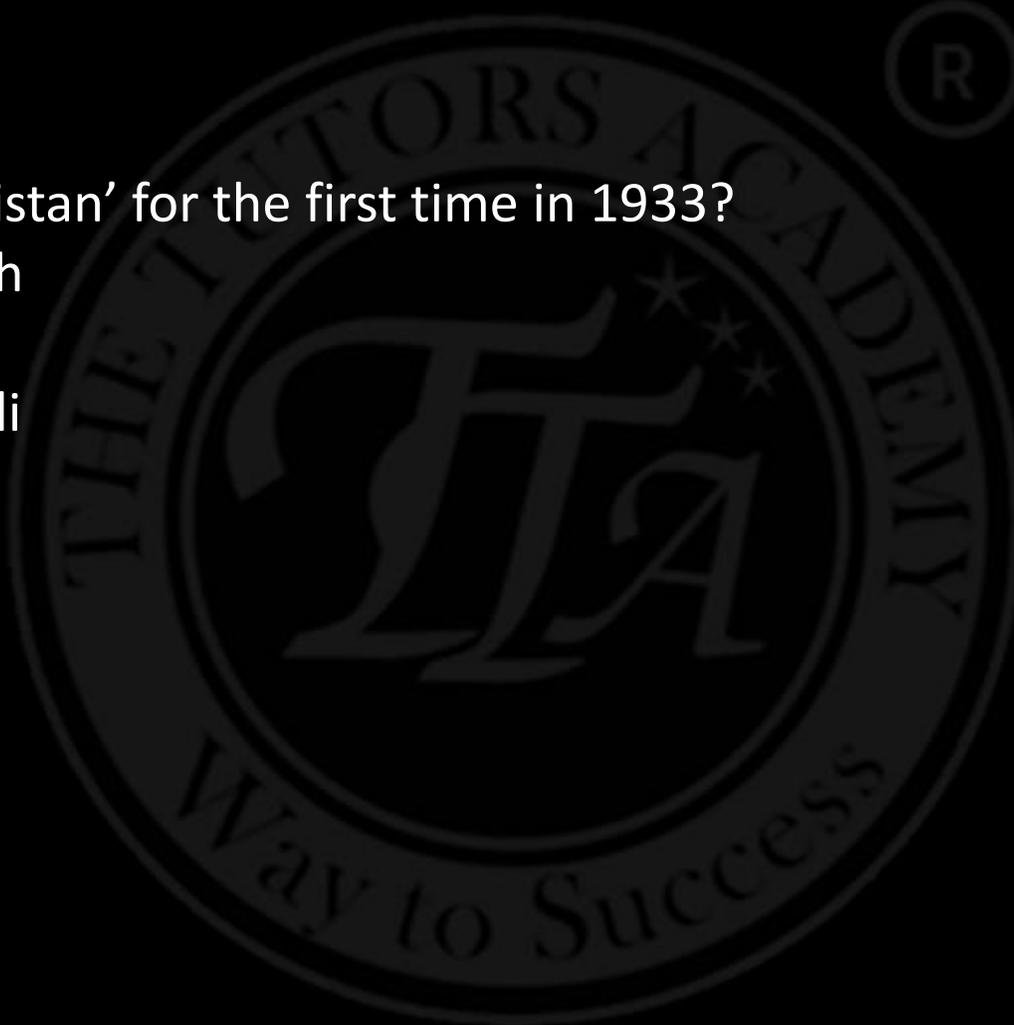
1. Mahayana Buddhism emerged around the 1st century CE, and its doctrines were further developed during the Fourth Buddhist Council convened by Kanishka in Kashmir.
 2. It emphasises the concept of Bodhisattvas. Bodhisattvas were perceived as deeply compassionate beings who accumulated merit through their efforts but used this not to attain nibbana and thereby abandon the world but to help others.
 3. Mahayana is prevalent in north and north-east Asia. Yogacara and Madhyamika are the philosophical sects of Mahayana.
- ✓ Therefore, c is the correct answer.



QUESTION 8

Who used the term 'Pakistan' for the first time in 1933?

- (a) Muhammad Ali Jinnah
- (b) Allama Iqbal
- (c) Choudhary Rehmat Ali
- (d) None of the above





8.Explanation

- ✓ Muhammad Ali Jinnah is remembered as the founder of Pakistan, its “Qaid e Azam”, or the “Great Leader.” He led a movement that transformed a weak idea of a sovereign Islamic state in British India’s north western provinces into reality, thus shaping the subcontinent’s politics for generations to come. But he was not the first to come up with the idea of Pakistan, nor was he its original champion.
- ✓ Instead, the man who did, is today relegated to a footnote in the history of the subcontinent.
- ✓ Choudhary Rehmat Ali can be credited with coining the “term” Pakistan, styling himself as the “Founder of the Pakistan National Movement”. On January 28, 1933, he released a pamphlet titled “*Now or Never: Are we to live or perish forever*”. In it he made a vehement “appeal on behalf of the thirty million Muslims of PAKISTAN, who live in the five Northern Units of India... for the recognition of their national status, as distinct from the other inhabitants of India, by the grant to Pakistan of a separate Federal Constitution on religious, social and historical grounds.”



- ✓ According to many historians, this can be seen as the genesis of the very idea of Pakistan; an idea which would become mainstream by the 1940s.
- ✓ Therefore, c is the correct answer.

