

Q.31)

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

**Statement a is correct:** In Indian art, **Yakshas** have been portrayed as **fearsome looking warriors** with **stout bodies** and **protruding bellies**, as well as **dwarf-like short stature**.

**Statement b is correct:** The cult of Yaksha/ Yakshi is very ancient in India. **Earlier** they were depicted as **benevolent nature-spirits** who would **grant wishes**, as they were **guardians of wealth (Yakshas)** and earth's **natural resources** like **grain, agriculture, fertility, water, fruits, etc (Yakshis)**. However **later**, in some didactic tales, they have also been depicted as **evil spirits** which **test humans, especially lonely travellers** and **scare** them and **devour** them.

**Statement c is correct:** The **cult** of Yaksha/ Yakshi worship is **ancient and pan-India**. While they have an **ambivalent** personality in **North India** (sometimes good, sometimes evil), they have mostly been portrayed as **evil spirits** preying on innocent humans in **South India**.

**Statement d is incorrect:** The cult of Yaksha/Yakshi is **related to all the three religions of Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism**.

In **Hinduism**, they denote the **minions** of god of wealth, **Kubera**, who as **nature-spirits, protect** the **natural resources of earth**.

In **Buddhism**, **Yakshis** are said to be the **attendants of the Vaisaravana** (12 heavenly generals who protect Bhaisajyaguru - the Medicine Buddha) - popular in Thai form of Buddhism.

In **Jainism**, the **Yakshis** are said to be **attendants of each Tirthankara**, and hence 24 of them have been identified. For example, Yakshi Ambika is said to be the attendant of Tirthankara Neminath.

Knowledge Base:

- 1) The cult of Yaksha/ Yakshi worship in India is so ancient that its exact roots and beginning can't be exactly pinned down. However, it can be said that their worship was a part of mainstream religion upto Mauryan period (300BCE- 200 BCE), after which it declined and
- 2) merged into mainstream religions like Hinduism, etc.
- 3) Yakshis have been depicted as sensuous and beautiful young women with broad, curvaceous
- 4) and fleshy bodies.
- 5) The most famous sculpture of this category is a polished sandstone sculpture of a fly-whisk
- 6) bearing Yakshi in Didarganj, Bihar, belonging to the Mauryan Era.

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/yaksha>

<https://deccanviews.wordpress.com/2017/01/26/yaksha-yakshi-depictions-benevolent-spirits/>

<https://www.livehistoryindia.com/story/snapshort-histories/yakshis-the-silent-guardians/>  
11th NCERT Fine Arts, Ch-3, pg-25

Q.32)

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

Indian **National Congress** (founded in 1885) and **Muslim League** (founded in 1906) were two of the most important pan-India political parties representing Indian interest against the British during the freedom struggle.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Although **Muslim League** was most of the time a **reactionary element** that **supported** the **British** government in hopes of getting favourable treatment, **both** the League and Congress believed that **Indians** should have a **greater role in the governance process** of their country. This is one of the points that brought them together during the **Lucknow Pact of 1916**. They demanded that **legislatures** at both **central and provincial levels** be **expanded** and more elected candidates be given seats.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** **Separate Electorates** were **introduced** by the **Morley Minto Reforms (Indian Councils Act 1909)**. While this was **welcomed** by the **League**, the **Congress** vociferously **opposed it**. Congress maintained that it was the **representative of both Hindus and Muslims** and that these two religions were not two different nations whose interests can never align. They believed that such acts would **widen the communal rift** and **create alienation** among Muslims and Hindus.