Despite their scale and monumentality, the structures were built to be as close to nature as possible, with arching pavilions that were bright and airy and did not trap heat. Local stone and marble were utilized to their full potential. Mandu is an excellent example of environmental adaptability in architecture.

The Royal Enclave, which was built around two artificial lakes, was the most comprehensive and picturesque complex of buildings in the city, consisting of a cluster of palaces and attendant structures, both official and residential.

The Hindola Mahal looks like a railway viaduct bridge with its disproportionately large buttresses supporting the walls. This was the audience hall of the Sultan and also the place where he showed himself to his subjects. The batter was used very effectively to give an impression of swinging (Hindola) walls.

80. (d)

Option D is correct

The Indian Currency Committee or Fowler Committee was a government committee appointed by the British-run Government of India on 29 April 1898 to examine the current situation in India.

Until 1892, silver was the metal on which Indian currency and coinage had largely been based. In 1892, the Government of India announced its intent to "close Indian mints to silver" and, in 1893, it brought this policy into force.

Hunter Commission: To study the development in education.

Raleigh Commission: Raleigh Commission was appointed under the presidency of Sir Thomas Raleigh on 27 January 1902 to inquire into the condition and prospects of universities in India and to recommend proposals for improving their constitution and working.

Opium Commission (Lord Lansdown): To investigate the effect of opium on health.

81. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Lord Mountbatten, India's last Viceroy, released a plan for the country's independence from the British on June 3, 1947. The plan, also known as the Mountbatten Plan, came to be celebrated as the 'last plan for independence'. Mountbatten was appointed Viceroy to India to speed up the process of transfer of power by the then British prime minister Clement Atlee. After his 'Dickie Bird Plan', under which he proposed that the provinces be declared independent successor states and be allowed to choose whether to join the constituent assembly or not, was opposed by Jawaharlal Nehru, he decided to abort it and come up with the June 3 plan.

Statement 2 is not correct: After consulting Indian leaders, Mountbatten made a plan known as DICKIE Bird Plan and sent Lord Ismay, his Chief of Staff, with the plan on May 2 to London which was approved by the British Cabinet. It said that each of the 11 provinces of British India and each of the 559 princely states would be given the option to join India or Pakistan or remain independent. However, Nehru opposed this as he felt that it would Balkanise India, allowing tens of little nation-states to emerge. Fearing that opposition by the Congress might end his career, Lord Mountbatten sought advice from the then Secretary of State's Department, VP Menon, who advised that power be transferred to two independent British Dominions, India and Pakistan. This was opposed by Mohammed Ali Jinnah, who wanted a referendum in the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) and Baluchistan.

VP Menon had suggested that Mountbatten give an assurance to Nehru and Sardar Patel that Britain would oppose the princely states becoming independent, and instead persuade them to join either of the two new nation-states (which would ensure that 90 percent of them would join India) in exchange for Congress support of a fresh 'reference to the electorate' in the NWFP and Baluchistan. In less than half a day, this new plan was adopted by Mountbatten and presented to Nehru, who was much more receptive. However, in the process, he was successful in getting the proposal dearest to Britain accepted, which meant dominion status for India and Pakistan and the separation of Baluchistan and the NWFP from India and giving that to Pakistan.