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## ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

### GENERAL STUDIES (P) TEST – 2967 (2020)

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#### Q 1.D

- **Akbar's reign(1556-1605)** holds a certain prominence in history; he was the ruler who actually fortified the foundations of the Mughal Empire.
- Persian prose and poetry were at climax under Akbar's reign.
- **Shaikh Abu al-Fazal ibn Mubarak** also known as **Abu'l-Fazl**, was the **vizier** of the Mughal emperor Akbar, and **author of the Akbarnama**, the official history of Akbar's reign in three volumes, (the third volume is known as the Ain-i-Akbari) and a Persian translation of the Bible. He was also one of the Nine Jewels (Navaratnas) of Akbar's royal court and the brother of Faizi, the poet laureate of Emperor Akbar.
- **Faizi** (brother of Abu'l Fazl) was the **leading poet** of that age. Faizi also **worked** for the **Akbar's translation department**. The **translation of the Mahabharata** was carried out under his supervision.
- **Utbi and Naziri** were the two other **leading Persian poets during Akbar's reign**. They migrated from Iran to India and made the Mughal court one of the cultural centres of the Islamic world. **Naziri became the first Persian-born poet** to join the court of the great Mughal statesman and literary patron 'Abd-al-Rahim Khan-e-Khanan. Besides, Hindus also contributed to the growth of Persian literature.
- **Tulsidas (1532-1623)** was one of the most **influential Hindi poets** of the medieval period who had written **Ramcharitmanas**. He used a dialect of Hindi, spoken in the eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh (around Banaras).
- Eknath and **Tukaram (1608-50)** developed and made the **Marathi language** popular. **Tukaram was a contemporary of Jahangir (1605-1627)**. The great Maratha chief **Shivaji** was an admirer of **Tukaram**.

#### Q 2.A

- The theme of **Mara Vijaya has been painted in the caves of Ajanta in cave No. 26**.
- It is sculpted near the colossal Buddha image of Mahaparinibbana.
- The panel shows the image of the Buddha in the centre surrounded by Mara's army along with his daughter. **The event is part of the enlightenment**. It is a personification of the commotion of mind which the Buddha went through at the time of enlightenment. Mara represents desire.
- According to the narrative, there is a dialogue between the Buddha and Mara, and the Buddha is shown with his right hand indicating towards earth as a witness to his generosity. The composition is very complex with highly voluminous images. The figure on the right shows Mara coming with his army consisting of various kinds of people including some with grotesque animal faces. On the left lower end, the image of Mara is shown contemplating how to disturb Siddhartha, the name of the Buddha before enlightenment. The army of Mara is shown marching towards the Buddha in the first half of the panel whereas the lower half of the panel shows the departing army of Mara giving him adorations. The centrally placed Buddha is in padmasana and a tree at the back is shown by dense leaves.
- **About Ajanta caves:**
  - Ajanta caves are a series of Buddhist caves located in Aurangabad district, Maharashtra. It encompasses both Theravada and Mahayana Buddhist traditions.
  - They are constructed in 2 phases:
    - Phase I- Satavahana Phase: Since Buddha was against the idea of sculpting and painting images of him. Hence, this phase depicts the Lord via symbols;
    - Phase 2 - Vakataka Phase – Major difference from Phase I is the depiction of Buddha as a result of the spread of Mahayana Buddhism. Here Buddha is represented through images and idols.