VIDEO 31 • SECTION 4.2 • MODULE 4 — MARATHAS & MODERN MP

The Holkars of Indore and Devi Ahilyabai

Attempt all 20 questions first, then check the answer key and read every explanation.

Questions

Q1. The founder of the Holkar dynasty of Indore was:

(a) Malhar Rao Holkar
(b) Tukoji Rao Holkar
(c) Yashwantrao Holkar I
(d) Khande Rao Holkar

Q2. Construction of the Rajwada (Holkar Palace) of Indore was started in 1747 by:

(a) Devi Ahilyabai Holkar
(b) Yashwantrao Holkar I
(c) Malhar Rao Holkar
(d) Tukoji Rao Holkar

Q3. Devi Ahilyabai Holkar was born in 1725 at Chondi, which today falls in:

(a) Khargone district, MP
(b) Indore district, MP
(c) Ujjain district, MP
(d) Ahilyanagar (formerly Ahmednagar), Maharashtra

Q4. Ahilyabai's husband Khande Rao died in 1754 during the siege of:

(a) Gwalior fort
(b) Kumher fort
(c) Mandu fort
(d) Asirgarh fort

Q5. Ahilyabai Holkar became the ruler of the Holkar state in:

(a) 1754
(b) 1766
(c) 1795
(d) 1767

Q6. Ahilyabai Holkar ruled her state from:

(a) Indore
(b) Ujjain
(c) Maheshwar
(d) Dhar

Q7. During Ahilyabai's rule, the army of the Holkar state was led by:

(a) Tukoji Rao Holkar
(b) Malhar Rao Holkar III
(c) Hari Rao Holkar
(d) Tatya Jog

Q8. Maheshwari saree, which has a GI tag, is linked with:

(a) Chanderi in Ashoknagar district
(b) Maheshwar in Khargone district
(c) Bagh in Dhar district
(d) Indore city

Q9. Ahilyabai Holkar rebuilt the Kashi Vishwanath temple at Varanasi in:

(a) 1767
(b) 1795
(c) 1818
(d) 1780

Q10. Ahilyabai Holkar built the Vishnupad temple at Gaya in:

(a) 1787
(b) 1780
(c) 1767
(d) 1747

Q11. Devi Ahilyabai Holkar died on:

(a) 31 May 1795
(b) 13 August 1795
(c) 21 December 1817
(d) 6 January 1818

Q12. The 300th birth anniversary of Devi Ahilyabai Holkar was marked on 31 May 2025 by the release of a commemorative coin of:

(a) ₹100
(b) ₹150
(c) ₹300
(d) ₹500

Q13. On 25 October 1802, near Poona, Yashwantrao Holkar I defeated the combined army of:

(a) Bajirao I and Ranoji Scindia
(b) the British and the Nizam
(c) Bajirao II and Daulat Rao Scindia
(d) Tipu Sultan and the Bhonsle

Q14. In July 1804, Yashwantrao Holkar I forced the British force of Colonel Monson to retreat through the Mukundra (Mokandra) pass, which is in:

(a) Rajasthan, near Kota
(b) Madhya Pradesh, near Mandsaur
(c) Gujarat, near Godhra
(d) Maharashtra, near Nashik

Q15. Yashwantrao Holkar I died in 1811 at Bhanpura, which is in which district today?

(a) Neemuch
(b) Ratlam
(c) Ujjain
(d) Mandsaur

Q16. The Battle of Mahidpur (21 December 1817) was fought in which present-day district?

(a) Mandsaur
(b) Indore
(c) Ujjain
(d) Dewas

Q17. Which daughter of Yashwantrao Holkar I fought herself in the Battle of Mahidpur (1817)?

(a) Ahilyabai
(b) Bhima Bai Holkar
(c) Gautama Bai
(d) Rani Avantibai

Q18. The Treaty of Mandsaur (1818) was signed after the Holkar defeat at:

(a) Maharajpur
(b) Panniar
(c) Assaye
(d) Mahidpur

Q19. Consider the following statements about the Treaty of Mandsaur (6 January 1818):

1. It was signed for the Holkars by minister Tatya Jog.
2. After it, Indore became a subordinate state of the British.
3. After it, the Holkar capital moved from Indore to Maheshwar.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q20. Mhow, where a British cantonment was set up in 1818 and where Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was born, was renamed Dr. Ambedkar Nagar in:

(a) 1956
(b) 2003
(c) 1991
(d) 2016

Answer Key

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(a)	(c)	(d)	(b)	(d)	(c)	(a)	(b)	(d)	(a)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
(b)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(d)	(c)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(b)

Explanations

Q1. Answer (a) Malhar Rao Holkar
Malhar Rao Holkar (born 1693, a Dhangar family of Maharashtra) rose in the Peshwa's service; Bajirao I gave him command in Malwa in 1724. He died in 1766.

Q2. Answer (c) Malhar Rao Holkar
Malhar Rao Holkar began the seven-storey Rajwada in 1747; it was completed by 1766. Not Ahilyabai — the common trap.

Q3. Answer (d) Ahilyanagar (formerly Ahmednagar), Maharashtra
Chondi village, Jamkhed taluka, in today's Ahilyanagar (old name Ahmednagar), Maharashtra. Ahilyanagar is in Maharashtra, not MP.

Q4. Answer (b) Kumher fort
Kumher fort, in today's Rajasthan (1754). Malhar Rao stopped Ahilyabai from committing sati and trained her in administration.

Q5. Answer (d) 1767
December 1767, after Malhar Rao (1766) and her son Male Rao (April 1767) died.

Q6. Answer (c) Maheshwar
Maheshwar, on the bank of the Narmada (today Khargone district). Indore became the Holkar capital only in 1818.

Q7. Answer (a) Tukoji Rao Holkar
Tukoji Rao Holkar led the army while Ahilyabai ran the state.

Q8. Answer (b) Maheshwar in Khargone district
The weaving of Maheshwari handloom sarees at Maheshwar began in Ahilyabai's time.

Q9. Answer (d) 1780
1780. Trick 47 › 67 › 80 › 95: Rajwada 1747, Ahilyabai ruler 1767, Kashi Vishwanath 1780, her death 1795.

Q10. Answer (a) 1787
1787. She also repaired Somnath and Grishneshwar temples, outside her own state.

Q11. Answer (b) 13 August 1795
13 August 1795. 31 May is her birth date (1725).

Q12. Answer (c) ₹300
₹300 — the first ₹300 coin in India. The PM spoke at the Mahila Sashaktikaran Mahasammelan in Bhopal; a postage stamp was also released.

Q13. Answer (c) Bajirao II and Daulat Rao Scindia
Peshwa Bajirao II and Daulat Rao Scindia. The frightened Peshwa went to the British and signed the Treaty of Bassein (December 1802).

Q14. Answer (a) Rajasthan, near Kota
Near Kota in today's Rajasthan — not MP. Peace with the British came by the Treaty of Rajghat, 24 December 1805.

Q15. Answer (d) Mandsaur
Mandsaur district. Bhanpura is also known for the rock art at Chaturbhujnath Nala (Video 11).

Q16. Answer (c) Ujjain
Ujjain district, on the bank of the Shipra. The treaty that followed was signed at Mandsaur — a separate district.

Q17. Answer (b) Bhima Bai Holkar
Bhima Bai Holkar, with Hari Rao Holkar, led the army for the boy ruler Malhar Rao Holkar III. The British side had Sir Thomas Hislop and Sir John Malcolm.

Q18. Answer (d) Mahidpur
Mahidpur (1817). Maharajpur and Panniar (1843) are Scindia battles; Assaye is 1803.

Q19. Answer (a) 1 and 2 only
Statement 3 is reversed: the capital moved from Maheshwar to Indore (November 1818), where the Indore Residency was set up.

Q20. Answer (b) 2003
2003. Dr. Ambedkar was born at Mhow on 14 April 1891. Mhow lies about 23 km south-west of Indore.

Watch the full lecture: MP Static GK Video 31 — The Holkars of Indore and Ahilyabai — YouTube @Study_ForGS