

Medieval History — UPSC Prelims PYQ

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— 2025 —

UPSC 2025

Medieval History › South Indian Dynasties

moderate

Q 16. In 1025 CE, Rajendra I of the Chola dynasty launched a large-scale naval campaign that attacked and subdued the maritime empire of Srivijaya, which controlled Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula, Java and neighbouring islands. No such expedition was led by the Rashtrakuta, Gurjara-Pratihara or Hoysala rulers listed.

- (a) Kalyanacharya
- (b) Mahendrapala
- (c) **Aditya I**
- (d) Viraditya

Answer: (c)

In 1025 CE Rajendra I of the Chola dynasty launched a large-scale naval campaign that attacked and subdued the maritime empire of Srivijaya, which controlled Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula, Java and neighbouring islands. No such expedition was led by the Rashtrakuta, Gurjara-Pratihara or Hoysala rulers listed.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chola_invasion_of_Srivijaya?utm_source=openai)(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chola_invasion_of_Srivijaya?utm_source=openai))

— 2024 —

UPSC 2024

Medieval History › Vijayanagara Empire

moderate

Q 56. In 1510 CE, Portuguese governor Afonso de Albuquerque sought—and obtained—permission from Vijayanagara emperor Krishnadevaraya to erect a fort at the west-coast port of Bhatkal. Contemporary and modern historical references attribute the grant explicitly to Krishnadevaraya, not to the other rulers listed.

- (a) **Chandragiri**
- (b) Devaraya II
- (c) Achyuta Deva Raya
- (d) Achyuta Deva Raya

Answer: (a)

Portuguese governor Afonso de Albuquerque sought—and obtained—permission from Vijayanagara emperor Krishnadevaraya in 1510 CE to erect a fort at the west-coast port of Bhatkal. Contemporary and modern historical references attribute the grant explicitly to Krishnadevaraya, not to the other rulers listed ([iasexpress.net](https://www.iasexpress.net/ie-pedia/who-of-the-following-rulers-of-medieval-india-gave-permission-to-the-portuguese-to-build-a-fort-at-bhatkal/?utm_source=openai)(https://www.iasexpress.net/ie-pedia/who-of-the-following-rulers-of-medieval-india-gave-permission-to-the-portuguese-to-build-a-fort-at-bhatkal/?utm_source=openai)).

— 2023 —

Q45. Consider the following dynasties:

1. Hoysala
2. Gahadvala
3. Kakatiya
4. Yadava

How many of the above dynasties established their kingdoms in early eighth century AD?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) None**

Answer: (d)

The Hoysala kingdom arose c. 950–1006 CE and flourished in the 11th-14th centuries ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoysala_Kingdom?utm_source=openai)); the Gahadavala dynasty began with Chandradeva in 1072 CE ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gahadavala_dynasty?utm_source=openai)); the Kakatiyas became sovereign only in 1163 CE ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kakatiya_dynasty?utm_source=openai)); and the earliest attested Yadava (Seuna) ruler dates to the mid-9th century, with independence much later ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seuna_%28Yadava%29_dynasty?utm_source=openai)). None of them was established in the early 8th century, so the correct count is 'none'.

Q48. Who among the following rulers of Vijayanagara Empire constructed a large dam across Tungabhadra River and a canal-cum-aqueduct several kilometres long from the river to the capital city?

- (a) Devaraja I**
- (b) Mallikarjuna
- (c) Vira Vijaya
- (d) Virupaksha

Answer: (a)

King Devaraya I (r. 1406-1422 CE) of the Sangama line built a major dam across the Tungabhadra and carried water to the capital through a long canal–aqueduct network, greatly boosting Hampi's water supply and revenues ([vajiramandravi.com](https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/who-among-the-following-rulers-of-the-vijayanagara-empire-constructed-a-large-dam-across-tungabhadra-river-and-a-canal-cum-aqueduct-several-kilometers-long-from-the-river-to-the-capital-city/?utm_source=openai)). The other listed rulers are not associated with this engineering project.

Q49. Who among the following rulers of medieval Gujarat surrendered Diu to Portuguese?

- (a) Ahmad Shah
- (b) Mahmud Begarha
- (c) Bahadur Shah**
- (d) Muhammad Shah

Answer: (c)

Under pressure from Mughal advances, Sultan Bahadur Shah of Gujarat concluded the 1534 Treaty of Bassein, granting the Portuguese control over Diu (and other territories); the fort was subsequently built by them ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bahadur_Shah_of_Gujarat?utm_source=openai)). Earlier rulers like Ahmad Shah and Mahmud Begarha preceded Portuguese arrival, while Muhammad Shah ruled later with no such cession.

— 2022 —

Q 52. 'Fanam' was a very small gold (later silver/copper) coin widely used in South India from about the 9th to 19th centuries; the term itself is derived from Tamil 'panam' meaning money. It did not denote clothing, ornaments or weapons. Hence option (b) Coins is correct. ([iasexpress.net](https://www.iasexpress.net/ie-pedia/in-medieval-india-the-term-fanam-referred-to/?utm_source=openai))

- (a) 9 > (
- (b) - ? M 7 >**
- (c) - B 7 #
- (d) 9 % ? / > 0

Answer: (b)

'Fanam/Phanam' was a very small gold (later silver/copper) coin widely used in South India from about the 9th to 19th centuries; the term itself is derived from Tamil 'panam' meaning money. It did not denote clothing, ornaments or weapons. Hence option (b) Coins is correct. ([iasexpress.net](https://www.iasexpress.net/ie-pedia/in-medieval-india-the-term-fanam-referred-to/?utm_source=openai))

Q57. With reference to Indian history, consider the following statements :

1. The first Mongol invasion of India happened during the reign of Jalal-ud-din Khalji.
2. During the reign of Ala-ud-din Khalji, one Mongol assault marched up to Delhi and besieged the city.
3. Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq temporarily lost portions of north-west of his kingdom to Mongols.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only**
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

Answer: (b)

The first Mongol incursion reached India in 1221 during Iluttmish's time, well before Jalal-ud-din Khalji (1190-96), so statement 1 is wrong. In 1303, under Ala-ud-din Khalji, a Mongol army besieged Delhi—statement 2 is correct. Although the Mongols raided frontier towns again in 1327, Tughlaq did not permanently lose territory; statement 3 is incorrect. Hence only statement 2 is correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol_invasions_of_India?utm_source=openai))

Q58. With reference to Indian history, who of the following were known as "Kulah-Daran" ?

- (a) Arab merchants
- (b) Qalandars
- (c) Persian calligraphists
- (d) Sayyids**

Answer: (d)

The term "Kulah-daran" (literally 'cap-wearers') was used for Sayyids—those claiming descent from the Prophet—who wore a distinctive pointed cap (kulah). It did not denote Arab traders, wandering Qalandars, or Persian calligraphers.

([cseguide.com](https://www.cseguide.com/kulah-daran-indian-history/?utm_source=openai))

- Q92. (? .M (2? ?\$ /A M.K *0 5? >0 @ ? :**
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 - (b) G 5 2 & K / A M .**
 - (c) G 5 2 \$ @ (/ A M .
 - (d) 8 - @ > 0 K / A M .

Answer: (b)

Nannuka established the Chandela dynasty, and Nagabhata II was a well-known Gurjara-Pratihara king—both matches are correct. Jayashakti was also a Chandela, not a Paramara, and the celebrated king Bhoja belonged to the Paramara house, not the Rashtrakutas; hence only two pairs are correct.

([forumias.com](https://forumias.com/blog/answer-key-upsc-ias-cse-prelims-2022-gs-paper-1-questions/))

- Q94. ? 8 G 0 > > 2 . G ' / K 5 > 6 ? 7 M ' > (? > . A & M & @ (* > (@ * \$ @ & M 5 > 0 > + < > 0**
- (a) , 0**
 - (b) 9 A . > / B
 - (c) 6 > 9 9 >
 - (d) 0 < G ,

Answer: (a)

The Sanskrit work 'Yogavasistha' was rendered into Persian as 'Jug-Bashisht' by Nizamuddin Panipati during Emperor Akbar's reign, reflecting Akbar's programme of translating Indian classics into Persian.

([forumias.com](https://forumias.com/blog/answer-key-upsc-ias-cse-prelims-2022-gs-paper-1-questions/))

Q95. 9 > 2 9 @ . G 9 H & 0 > , > & . G - > 0 \$ G * M 0 ' > (. \$ M 0 @ & M 5 > 0 > 0 > . > (A @ 8 , 8 G @ , H @ 9 A . B 0 M \$? > & M > (? / > / > % > d (? . M (2 ? ? \$ % (K . G L 6 ? M 7 > K 8 9 @ (? 0 B * ? \$ 0 \$ > 9 H ?

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 (d) ' M / > (G . > ' M / . 8 G . K M 7 * > / > > 8 \$ > % > d

Answer: (a)

Ramanuja held that heartfelt bhakti (devotion) to Vishnu, coupled with complete surrender, is the surest road to moksha; this distinctive emphasis makes statement (a) the best summary of his teaching. Respect for the Vedas is common to all orthodox schools, and rigorous logic or solitary meditation are associated more with Advaita thinkers such as Shankara, so options (b), (c) and (d) do not capture Ramanuja's core message. ([vajiramandravi.com](https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/the-worlds-second-tallest-statue-in-sitting-pose-of-ramanuja-was-inaugurated-by-the-prime-minister-of-india-at-hyderabad-recently-which-one-of-the-following-statements-correctly-represents-t/?utm_source=openai))

— 2021 —

Q35. According to Portuguese writer Nuniz, the women in Vijayanagara Empire were expert in which of the following areas?

1. Wrestling
2. Astrology
3. Accounting
4. Soothsaying

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
 (c) 2 and 4 only
 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

Portuguese chronicler Fernao Nuniz (1535-37) records that women in Vijayanagara practised competitive wrestling, were trained in astrology, maintained royal accounts and engaged in soothsaying; hence all four activities are mentioned. Any option omitting one of these skills is therefore incomplete. ([vajiramandravi.com](https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/according-to-portuguese-writer-nuniz-the-women-in-vijayanagara-empire-were-expert-in-which-of-the-following-areas/?utm_source=openai))

Q38. Consider the following statements:

1. It was during the reign of Iltutmish that Chengiz Khan reached the Indus in pursuit of the fugitive Khwarezm prince.
2. It was during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughluq that Taimur occupied Multan and crossed the Indus.
3. It was during the reign of Deva Raya II of Vijayanagara Empire that Vasco da Gama reached the coast of Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

1 ' Genghis Khan pursued the Khwarezmian prince Jalal-ud-din to the Indus in 1221, during Iltutmish's reign. 2 ' Timur's invasion (1398) happened under Sultan Nasir-ud-din Mahmud II after Muhammad bin Tughluq's reign (1325-51). 3 ' Vasco da Gama reached Calicut in 1498 during the reign of Deva Raya II (r. 1422-46) of Vijayanagara. Hence only statement 1 is correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iltutmish?utm_source=openai))

Q45. With reference to medieval India, which one of the following is the correct sequence in ascending order in terms of size?

- (a) Pargana — Sarkar — Suba
- (b) Sarkar — Pargana — Suba
- (c) Suba — Sarkar — Pargana
- (d) Pargana — Suba — Sarkar

Answer: (a)

Under the Mughals a Suba (province) was the largest unit, subdivided into several Sarkars (districts) which in turn comprised a number of Parganas (groups of villages). Hence the ascending order of size is Pargana — Sarkar — Suba, making option (a) correct. Other options place the units in a wrong hierarchy. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pargana))

Q97. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs:

Famous Place — Present State

1. Bhilsa — Madhya Pradesh
2. Dwarasamudra — Maharashtra
3. Girinagar — Gujarat
4. Sthanesvara — Uttar Pradesh

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 4 only

Answer: (a)

Bhilsa is the old name for Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh, and Girinagar refers to Junagadh/Girnar in Gujarat—both pairs are correct. Dwarasamudra is the medieval name of Halebidu in Karnataka (not Maharashtra), and Sthanesvara is present-day Thanesar in Haryana (not Uttar Pradesh), making those pairs incorrect. Thus only pairs 1 and 3 are correctly matched.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vidisha?utm_source=openai))

— 2019 —

Q1. With reference to Mughal India, what is/are the difference/differences between Jagirdar and Zamindar?

1. Jagirdars were holders of land assignments in lieu of judicial and police duties, whereas Zamindars were holders of revenue rights without obligation to perform any duty other than revenue collection.
2. Land assignments to Jagirdars were hereditary and revenue rights of Zamindars were not hereditary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Jagirdars received temporary revenue assignments (jagirs) from the Mughal emperor in return for military/administrative service; they could be transferred and were generally non-hereditary, so statement 2 is wrong. Zamindars, on the other hand, enjoyed long-standing (often hereditary) revenue rights and also helped maintain local order, so statement 1's contrast is inaccurate. Because both statements are incorrect, the correct option is 'Neither 1 nor 2'. ([scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com/document/930193143/C4-Jagirdars-Zamindars-Divide-of-Mughals?utm_source=openai))

Q12. Consider the following statements:

1. In the revenue administration of Delhi Sultanate, the in-charge of revenue collection was known as 'Amil'.
2. The Iqta system of Sultans of Delhi was an ancient indigenous institution.
3. The office of 'Mir Bakshi' came into existence during the reign of Khalji Sultans of Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a)

1 is correct: the amil (or amalguzar) was the local revenue collector. 2 is wrong: the iqta was a West-Asian institution imported by Turkish rulers, not an ancient Indian practice. 3 is wrong: Mir Bakshi was created later under the Mughals, not under the Khaljis. Hence only statement 1 is correct.

([educemy.com](https://educemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2019-question-12/?utm_source=openai))

Q13. Consider the following statements:

1. Saint Nimbarka was a contemporary of Akbar.
2. Saint Kabir was greatly influenced by Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (d)

Nimbarka's dates are placed in the 11th–12th centuries, centuries before Emperor Akbar (1556-1605). Kabir (c. 15th century) lived long before Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi (1564-1624) and could not have been influenced by him. Therefore both statements are incorrect. ([vajiramandravi.com](https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/consider-the-following-statements-48/?utm_source=openai))

— 2018 —

Q 73. (? .M (2? ?\$ 5? & G 6 @ />\$ M 0 ? / K . G 8 G ? 8 (G -> 0 \$ G 9 @ 0 K 0 9 @ 0 G 8 G 0 M > @ ?

(a) François Bernier

(b) Jean-Baptiste Tavernier

(c) Jean de Thévenot

(d) Abbé Barthélemy Carré

Answer: (b)

Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, a 17th-century French gem-merchant, toured the Deccan and left the first detailed European description of the diamond mines of Golconda; his Six Voyages remains the classic objective account. Bernier, Thévenot and Carré discussed other subjects, not specifically India's diamond mines. ([naturalhistory.si.edu](https://www.naturalhistory.si.edu/explore/collections/hope-diamond-history?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2017

Medieval History › South Indian Dynasties

moderate

Q51. Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya kingdom?

- (a) Kakinada
- (b) Motupalli**
- (c) Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam)
- (d) Nelluru

Answer: (b)

The Kakatiya rulers (12-14 th C.) used Motupalli, on the Andhra coast, as their principal seaport for horse and overseas trade; Marco Polo even referred to the realm by that port's name. Kakinada, Machilipatnam and Nelluru rose to prominence later or under other dynasties, not as the chief Kakatiya port. ([insightsonindia.com](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2017/06/19/answer-key-upsc-civil-services-prelims-exam-2017-general-studies-paper-1/?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 2016

Medieval History › Vijayanagara Empire

moderate

Q9. Regarding the taxation system of Krishna Deva, the ruler of Vijayanagar, consider the following statements:

1. The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality of the land.
2. Private owners of workshops paid an industries tax.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Contemporary accounts of Krishnadevaraya's reign note that land revenue was assessed on a sliding scale—between one-third and one-sixth of produce—depending on soil quality, and that craftsmen and private workshop owners were liable to an industry (craft) tax. Hence both statements are valid. ([edukemy.com](https://edukemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2016-question-9/?utm_source=openai))

Q17. With reference to the cultural history of medieval India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Siddhas (Sittars) of Tamil region were monotheistic and condemned idolatry.**
 - 2. Lingayats of Kannada region questioned the theory of rebirth and rejected the caste hierarchy.**
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: (c)

Tamil Siddhas (Sittars) advocated a formless monotheism and explicitly condemned idolatry, validating Statement 1. The Lingayat/Virashaiva tradition founded by Basavanna in Karnataka rejected caste distinctions and denied the doctrine of rebirth, making Statement 2 correct as well. Since both statements are true, the right option is (c).

([[edukemy.com](https://www.edukemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2016-question-17/?utm_source=openai)](https://www.edukemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2016-question-17/?utm_source=openai))

Q38. Banjaras during the medieval period of Indian history were generally

- (a) agriculturists
- (b) warriors
- (c) weavers
- (d) traders**

Answer: (d)

Contemporary sources such as Abul Fazl's 'Ain-i-Akbari' describe Banjaras as itinerant traders and transporters of grain, salt and other commodities across Mughal India. They were not principally farmers, warriors, or weavers, so options (a), (b) and (c) are wrong.

Q80. In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs:

Term — Description

- 1. Eripatti : Land, revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank**
- 2. Taniyurs : Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins**
- 3. Ghatikas : Colleges generally attached to the temples**

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 3**

Answer: (d)

Eripatti were 'tank lands'—plots whose revenue was earmarked for maintaining the village irrigation tank, so pair 1 is correct. Ghatikas were small collegiate centres of higher learning, usually attached to South-Indian temples, so pair 3 is correct. Taniyurs were large revenue units in the Chola realm, not Brahmin-grant villages (those were called Brahmadeya), so pair 2 is incorrect. Hence only pairs 1 and 3 match. ([[testbook.com](https://www.testbook.com/question-answer/in-the-context-of-the-history-of-india-consider-t-5f451d3496179e2366e315dd?utm_source=openai)](https://www.testbook.com/question-answer/in-the-context-of-the-history-of-india-consider-t-5f451d3496179e2366e315dd?utm_source=openai))

Q88. With reference to the economic history of medieval India, the term 'Araghata' refers to

- (a) bonded labour
- (b) land grants made to military officers
- (c) waterwheel used in the irrigation of land**
- (d) wasteland converted to cultivated land

Answer: (c)

In medieval Indian agrarian texts the Sanskrit term 'Araghamma' (later 'Araghata') denoted a wheel-type water-lifting device used to irrigate fields; it is not related to labour, land grants or land reclamation. ([cseplus.in](https://www.cseplus.in/medieval-indian-history/araghatta-irrigation-device/?utm_source=openai))

— 2015 —

Q35. Consider the following pairs:

Medieval Indian State — Present Region

1. Champaka : Central India
2. Durgara : Jammu
3. Kuluta : Malabar

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only**
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

Answer: (b)

Champaka corresponds to the medieval hill kingdom of Chamba in present-day Himachal Pradesh, not Central India; Kuluta refers to Kullu in Himachal Pradesh, not the Malabar coast. Only Durgara (Duggar) matches the Jammu region, so Pair 2 alone is correct. ([edukemy.com](https://edukemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2015-question-35/?utm_source=openai))

Q41. Consider the following :

The arrival of Babur into India led to the

- 1. introduction of gunpowder in the subcontinent**
- 2. introduction of the arch and dome in the region's architecture**
- 3. establishment of Timurid dynasty in the region**

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Gunpowder weapons and the arch-and-dome architectural form were present in India well before Babur's arrival—introduced by earlier Mongol/Turkic contacts and Delhi Sultanate builders—so statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Babur's victory at Panipat (1526) founded the Mughal state as an extension of his Timurid lineage, making statement 3 correct. Therefore only statement 3 is true (option b).

([educemy.com](https://educemy.com/blog/upsc-prelims-2015-question-41/?utm_source=openai))

Q47. Who of the following founded a new city on the south bank of a tributary to river Krishna and undertook to rule his new kingdom as the agent of a deity to whom all the land south of the river Krishna was supposed to belong?

- (a) Amoghavarsha I
- (b) Ballala II
- (c) Harihara I**
- (d) Prataparudra II

Answer: (c)

Harihara I of the Sangama dynasty founded the city of Vijayanagara (on the south bank of the Tungabhadra, a Krishna tributary) around 1336 CE and proclaimed he was governing on behalf of the deity Virupaksha, to whom all lands south of the Krishna were deemed to belong. Amoghavarsha I (Rashtrakuta), Ballala II (Hoysala) and Prataparudra II (Kakatiya) neither founded this city nor adopted that divine-agent title.

Q55. With reference to Indian history, which of the following is/are the essential element/elements of the feudal system?

1. A very strong centralized political authority and a very weak provincial or local political authority
2. Emergence of administrative structure based on control and possession of land
3. Creation of lord-vassal relationship between the feudal lord and his overlord

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

In early-medieval India political power was highly decentralized, so statement 1 is incorrect. Feudalism revolved around (i) land being the main basis of administration and revenue, and (ii) a stratified lord-vassal hierarchy; hence statements 2 and 3 are essential and correct. Therefore, only 2 and 3 constitute the core elements of the feudal system. ([jagranjosh.com](https://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/upsc-civil-services-ias-prelims-2015-upsc-released-answer-key-1463479853-1))

— 2014 —

Q21. In medieval India, the designations 'Mahattara' and 'Pattakila' were used for

- (a) military officers
- (b) village headmen**
- (c) specialists in Vedic rituals
- (d) chiefs of craft guilds

Answer: (b)

Epigraphic and textual evidence shows the terms 'Mahattara' and 'Pattakila' (also spelt Patel/Pattakila) referred to hereditary village headmen who managed local revenue and mediated disputes; they were not military officers, ritual specialists or guild chiefs. Thus option (b) is correct. ([vajiramandravi.com](https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/in-medieval-india-the-designations-mahattara-and-pattakila-were-used-for/?utm_source=openai))

Q93. Ibadat Khana at Fatehpur Sikri was

- (a) the mosque for the use of Royal Family
- (b) Akbar's private prayer chamber
- (c) the hall in which Akbar held discussions with scholars of various religions**
- (d) the room in which the nobles belonging to different religions gathered to discuss religious affairs

Answer: (c)

Akbar built the Ibadat Khana at Fatehpur Sikri in 1575 as a 'House of Worship' where he convened inter-faith debates with scholars of Islam, Hinduism, Christianity, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, etc. Thus it was a hall for discussions with scholars of various religions, not merely a mosque, private prayer room, or nobles' meeting room. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibadat_Khana?utm_source=openai))

— 2013 —

Q52. Consider the following Bhakti Saints :

1. Dadu Dayal
2. Guru Nanak
3. Tyagaraja

Who among the above was/were preaching when the Lodi dynasty fell and Babur took over?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 only**
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 2

Answer: (b)

The Lodi dynasty fell and Babur established Mughal rule in 1526. Guru Nanak (1469-1539) was alive and preaching during this period, whereas Dadu Dayal was born later in 1544 and Tyagaraja much later in 1767. Therefore only Guru Nanak fits the time-frame, making option (b) correct.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guru_Nanak?utm_source=openai))

— 2012 —

Q69. With reference to the religious history of medieval India, the Sufi mystics were known to pursue which of the following practices?

1. Meditation and control of breath
2. Severe ascetic exercises in a lonely place
3. Recitation of holy songs to arouse a state of ecstasy in their audience

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: (d)

Classical Sufi orders prescribed (1) dhikr that involves meditation with regulation of the breath, (2) long solitary retreats called chilla involving severe ascetic discipline to 'break the lower soul', and (3) sam $\dot{\iota}$ —ecstatic singing/chanting of devotional poetry accompanied by music—to induce spiritual ecstasy. Hence all the three practices were pursued by Sufis.

([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Sufism/Sufi-orders?utm_source=openai))

— 2009 —

UPSC 2009

Medieval History › European Powers & Early Colonial Contacts

easy

Q64. With whose permission did the English set up their first factory in Surat?

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Jahangir**
- (c) Shahjahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

Answer: (b)

The Mughal emperor Jahangir granted the English East India Company permission to establish its first trading factory at Surat in 1613, following Thomas Roe's embassy. Akbar had died in 1605 and Shahjahan and Aurangzeb reigned later.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jahangir?utm_source=openai))

— 2008 —

UPSC 2008

Medieval History › European Powers & Early Colonial Contacts

easy

Q56. During the time of which Mughal Emperor did the English East India Company establish its first factory in India?

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Jahangir**
- (c) Shahjahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

Answer: (b)

The English East India Company secured permission from Emperor Jahangir (r. 1605-1627) and opened its first factory at Masulipatnam in 1611, followed by Surat in 1613/1615. These events took place well after Akbar and before the reigns of Shahjahan and Aurangzeb.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_India_Company?utm_source=openai))

— 2006 —

UPSC 2006

Medieval History › Delhi Sultanate

moderate

Q20. Assertion (A): Muhammad bin Tughlaq issued a new gold coin which was called Dinar by Ibn Batutah.

Reason (R): Muhammad bin Tughlaq wanted to issue token currency in gold coins to promote trade with West Asian and North African countries.

- (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 a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true but R is false**
- (d) A is false but R is true

Answer: (c)

Ibn Battuta records that Muhammad bin Tughlaq issued a heavy gold coin called the 'dinar'; therefore A is true. His famous experiment with **token** currency, however, was in copper/bronze, not in gold, and it was introduced to tide over silver scarcity rather than to promote West-Asian trade, so R is false. Hence option (c) is correct. ([mintageworld.com](https://www.mintageworld.com/media/detail/5630-al-wathiq-type-gold-dinar-of-muhammad-bin-tughlaq/?utm_source=openai))

Q74. Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the Afghan rulers to the throne of Delhi?

- (a) Sikandar Shah-Ibrahim Lodi-Bahlol Khan Lodi
- (b) Sikandar Shah-Bahlol Khan Lodi-Ibrahim Lodi
- (c) Bahlol Khan Lodi-Sikandar Shah-Ibrahim Lodi**
- (d) Bahlol Khan Lodi-Ibrahim Lodi-Sikandar Shah

Answer: (c)

Bahlol Khan Lodi reigned 1451-1489, his son Sikandar Lodi 1489-1517, and grandson Ibrahim Lodi 1517-1526 ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bahlul_Khan_Lodi?utm_source=openai)). Hence the correct chronological order is Bahlol! Sikandar! Ibrahim (option c).

Q76. In Indian history, who was Abdul Hamid Lahori?

- (a) An important military commander during Akbar's reign
- (b) An official historian of the reign of Shah Jahan**
- (c) An important noble and confidant of Aurangzeb
- (d) A chronicler and poet during the reign of Muhammad Shah

Answer: (b)

Abdul Hamid Lahori was the official court historian of Shah Jahan and authored the two-volume Padshahnama describing the first 20 years of that emperor's reign ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdul_Hamid_Lahori?utm_source=openai)). Hence option (b) is correct, while the other choices refer to different reigns or roles.

Q127. When Raja Wodeyar founded the kingdom of Mysore, who was the ruler of the Vijayanagar Empire?

- (a) Sadasiva
- (b) Tirumala
- (c) Ranga II
- (d) Venkata II**

Answer: (d)

Raja Wodeyar I asserted Mysore's independence in 1610. At that moment the Vijayanagara throne was held by Venkatapati Raya, better known as Venkata II, whose reign lasted from 1586 to 1614. The other names (Sadasiva 1542-70, Tirumala 1570-72, Sriranga II 1614-15) do not coincide with 1610, so option (d) is correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raja_Wodeyar_I))

Q36. Which one of the following is the correct statement?

- (a) The modern Kochi was a Dutch colony till India's independence.
- (b) The Dutch defeated the Portuguese and built Fort Williams in the modern Kochi.**
- (c) The modern Kochi was first a Dutch colony before the Portuguese took over from them.
- (d) The modern Kochi never became a part of the British colony.

Answer: (b)

The Dutch captured Cochin from the Portuguese in 1663 and, during their rule over the Cochin kingdom, built William Fort (also called Chettuva/'Fort William') in 1714; thus the Dutch did defeat the Portuguese and erected Fort William, whereas Kochi later passed to the British (so options a, c and d are incorrect). ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Kochi))

— 2004 —

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Narasimha Saluva ended the Sangama dynasty and seized the throne for himself and started the Saluva dynasty.
2. Vira Narasimha deposed the last Saluva ruler and seized the throne for himself.
3. Vira Narasimha was succeeded by his younger brother, Krishnadeva Raya.
4. Krishnadeva Raya was succeeded by his half-brother, Achyuta Raya.

Which of these statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1 and 4
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4**

Answer: (d)

All four succession statements are historically accurate: (1) Saluva Narasimha Deva Raya overthrew the last Sangama ruler in 1485 and founded the Saluva line; (2) Tuluva Vira Narasimha deposed the child-king Immadi Narasimha (last Saluva) c. 1503-05; (3) on Vira Narasimha's death in 1509 his younger half-brother Krishnadeva Raya ascended the throne; (4) after Krishnadeva Raya's death in 1529 he was succeeded by his half-brother Achyuta Raya. Hence 1, 2, 3 and 4 are correct. ([uttarpradesh.pscnotes.com](https://uttarpradesh.pscnotes.com/uppcs-prelims/consider-the-following-statements-narasimha-saluva-ended-the-sangam/?utm_source=openai))

Q18. Who was the last ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate?

- (a) Firoj Shah Tughlaq
- (b) Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq Shah II
- (c) Nasir-ud-din Mahmud**
- (d) Nasrat Shah

Answer: (c)

Nasir-ud-din Mahmud Shah II (1394 – 1413 CE) was the last sovereign of the Tughlaq dynasty; after his death the Sayyid dynasty under Khizr Khan took Delhi. Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq II, Firoz Shah and others ruled earlier, while "Nasrat Shah" was only a rival claimant and never the final ruler. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahmud_Shah_II?utm_source=openai))

Q25. How did the dynasty of Nizam Shahis of Ahmadnagar come to an end?

- (a) Ahmadnagar was annexed into Mughal empire and Husain Shah was consigned to life imprisonment
 (b) Mughal troops destroyed Daulatabad fort and killed Nizam-ul-Mulk of Ahmadnagar
 (c) Fateh Khan usurped the throne from Nizam-ul-Mulk
 (d) Malik Ambar was defeated in a battle with Mughals in 1631 and the entire royal family was killed by the Mughal troops

Answer: (a)

The Mughal campaign under Shah Jahan completed the annexation of Ahmadnagar in 1633–36; the last ruler Husain Shah Nizam Shahi was captured and kept in confinement for life, marking the end of the dynasty. This matches option (a); the other alternatives describe events that either never happened or involve different individuals.

([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Shah-Jahan?utm_source=openai))

Q120. Consider the following statements about Sikh Gurus:

1. Banda Bahadur was appointed as the military leader of the Sikhs by Guru Tegh Bahadur.
2. Guru Arjun Dev became the Sikh Guru after Guru Ram Das.
3. Guru Arjun Dev gave to Sikhs their own script – Guru mukhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Statement 1 is wrong because Banda Singh Bahadur was commissioned as the Sikh military leader by Guru Gobind Singh in 1708, not by Guru Tegh Bahadur. Statement 2 is correct: Guru Arjun Dev (5th Guru) succeeded his father Guru Ram Das. Statement 3 is taken as correct in the UPSC key—the fifth Guru compiled the di Granth in the Gurmukhi script, thereby firmly establishing ('giving') the community—even though the original standardisation of Gurmukhi is ascribed to Guru Angad. Hence, statements 2 and 3 are correct and option (b) is chosen.

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banda_Singh_Bahadur?utm_source=openai))

— 2003 —

Q1. Alam Khan, one of those who invited Babar to invade India was

- (a) An uncle of Ibrahim Lodi and a pretender to the throne of Delhi
 (b) A cousin of Ibrahim Lodi who was ill-treated and expelled from the country
 (c) The father of Dilawar Khan to whom cruel treatment was meted out by Ibrahim Lodi
 (d) A high official in Punjab province who was very much discontented with Ibrahim Lodi's treatment to his tribe

Answer: (a)

Alam Khan (also called Ala-ud-Din Alam Khan Lodi) was an uncle of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi; disgruntled with Ibrahim, he allied with Daulat Khan and invited Babur to invade, hoping to claim the Delhi throne. Hence option (a) is correct, while the other options misidentify his relationship or position. ([iasexamportal.com](https://iasexamportal.com/paper/IAS_General_Studies_Prelims_Paper_2003_part-1?utm_source=openai))

Q2. The battle of Dharmat was fought between

- (a) Muhammad Gori and Jai Chand
- (b) Babar and the Afghans
- (c) Aurangzeb and Dara Shikoh**
- (d) Ahmad Shah Durrani and the Marathas

Answer: (c)

The Battle of Dharmat (15 April 1658) was fought between Prince Aurangzeb and his elder brother Dara Shikoh during Shah Jahan's succession struggle; Aurangzeb's victory cleared his path to the throne. The other pairs belong to different periods/conflicts, so they are incorrect. ([indianexpress.com](https://indianexpress.com/article/upsc-current-affairs/upsc-essentials/knowledge-nugget-aurangzeb-dara-shikoh-mughal-nagpur-upsc-history-9894427/?utm_source=openai))

Q16. How did the Mughal Emperor Jahandar Shah's reign come to an early end?

- (a) He was deposed by his wazir
- (b) He died due to a slip while climbing down steps
- (c) He was defeated by his nephew in a battle**
- (d) He died of sickness due to too much consumption of wine

Answer: (c)

Jahandar Shah's brief reign (1712-13) ended when he was defeated and deposed by his nephew Farrukhsiyar at the Battle of Agra; after capture he was executed. He was neither deposed by his wazir, killed by an accident, nor did he die of illness related to alcohol. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jahandar_Shah?utm_source=openai))

Q30. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Cholas defeated Pandya and Chera rulers and established their domination over peninsular India in early medieval times.**
- 2. The Cholas sent an expedition against the Sailendra empire of South-East Asia and conquered some of the areas.**

Which of these statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Rajaraja I and his successors defeated both the Pandya and Chera dynasties, establishing Chola supremacy over most of peninsular India. Rajendra I later launched a naval expedition in 1025 CE that raided the Sailendra/Srivijaya empire in Southeast Asia and captured territories such as Kedah and parts of Sumatra. Hence both statements are correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Venni?utm_source=openai))

Q101. Assertion (A): Emperor Akbar marched towards Afghanistan in 1581 with a huge army.
Reason (R): He was on his way to reclaim his ancestral country of Ferghana in Central Asia.

- (a) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are individually 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

Answer: (c)

Akbar did advance with a large force toward Afghanistan in 1581 to subdue the revolt of his half-brother Mirza Hakim and secure Kabul, so the Assertion is correct. Ferghana (in present-day Uzbekistan) had long been lost to the Mughals and Akbar never sought to 'reclaim' it, making the Reason false; hence A is true but R is false (option c). ([aspireias.com](https://www.aspireias.com/upsc-general-study-10years-paper/medievalhistory?utm_source=openai))

Q114. Assertion (A): Saluva Narasimha put an end to the old dynasty and assumed the royal title.
Reason (R): He wanted to save the kingdom from further degeneration and disintegration.

- (a) Both A and R are individually true and R is the correct explanation of A**
- (b) Both A and R are individually 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

Answer: (a)

In 1485 the Vijayanagara general Saluva Narasimha deposed the last Sangama ruler Praudha Raya, assumed the royal title and founded the Saluva dynasty. He took this drastic step to rescue the state from anarchy and external threats that had grown under the later Sangamas, so the Reason correctly explains the Assertion. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saluva_Narasimha_Deva_Raya?utm_source=openai))

Q125. How did Sultan Qutb-ud-din Aibak die?

- (a) He was treacherously stabbed to death by one of his ambitious nobles
- (b) He was killed in a battle with Taj-u-din Yildiz, the ruler of Ghazni who entered into a contest with him over the capture of Punjab
- (c) He sustained injuries while besieging the fortress of Kalinjar in Bundelkhand and succumbed to death later
- (d) He died after a fall from his horse while playing Chaugan**

Answer: (d)

Qutb-ud-din Aibak, founder of the Slave Dynasty, died in 1210 CE after falling from his horse while playing the polo-like game chaugan, making option (d) correct; the other causes listed are not supported by contemporary chronicles. ([iasexamportal.com](https://iasexamportal.com/paper/IAS_General_Studies_Prelims_Paper_2003_part-2?utm_source=openai))

Q5. The historian Barani refused to consider the state in India under Delhi Sultans as truly Islamic because

- (a) the majority of the population did not follow Islam
- (b) the Muslim theologians were often disregarded
- (c) the Sultan supplemented the Muslim law by framing his own regulations**
- (d) religious freedom was accorded to non-Muslims

Answer: (c)

Barani, an orthodox Sunni chronicler, felt the Sultanate was not a truly Islamic polity because the Sultans issued secular regulations (zabt) to supplement or override Sharia, thereby making royal law-making independent of the ulema. The other options (demographic majority, disregard of theologians, or tolerance for non-Muslims) were noted by him but were not the primary reason he gave. ([aspireias.com](https://www.aspireias.com/upsc-general-study-10years-paper/2002?utm_source=openai))

Q30. With reference to Sufism in Indian history, consider the following statements:

1. Shaikh Ahmad Sarhandi was a contemporary of Ibrahim Lodi
 2. Shaikh Nasiruddin Chirag-i-Dehlavi was a disciple of Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya
 3. Aurangzeb was contemporary of Shaikh Salim Chisti
 4. The Qadiri order of Sufis was first introduced in India by Shaikh Niamtullah and Makhdum Muhammad Jilani
- Which of these statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 2 and 4**

Answer: (d)

Statement 2 is correct: Shaikh Nasiruddin Chirag-i-Dehlavi (d. 1356) was the foremost disciple and successor of Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya. Statement 4 is correct: the Qadiri order was brought into India by pioneers such as Shaikh Niamtullah and Makhdum Muhammad Jilani in the 15-16 th centuries. Statement 1 is wrong because Shaikh Ahmad Sarhandi (1564-1624) lived a century after Ibrahim Lodi (r. 1517-26). Statement 3 is wrong because Shaikh Salim Chishti (d. 1572) was a contemporary of Akbar, not Aurangzeb (r. 1658-1707). Hence only 2 and 4 are correct. ([scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com/document/819879928/2002-QP-AW))

Q49. With reference to medieval Indian rulers, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Alauddin Khalji first set up a separate Ariz's department
- (b) Balban introduced the branding system of horses of military
- (c) Muhammad bin Tughlaq was succeeded by his uncle to the Delhi throne
- (d) Firuz Tughlaq set up a separate department of slaves**

Answer: (d)

Firuz Shah Tughlaq established the Diwan-i-Bandagan, a separate department to manage slaves. Alauddin Khalji did not create a new Ariz department (the post existed earlier), the branding (dagh) of horses began under Alauddin, not Balban, and Muhammad bin Tughlaq was succeeded by his cousin Firuz, not an uncle. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firuz_Shah_Tughlaq?utm_source=openai))

Q51. The motive behind Shahjahan's Balkh campaign was to

- (a) secure a friendly ruler in Balkh and Badakhshan which bordered Kabul
- (b) conquer Samarqand and Farghana, the Mughal homelands
- (c) fix the Mughal frontier on the 'scientific line', the Amu Daria
- (d) expand the Mughal Empire beyond the sub-continent

Answer: (a)

Shahjahan's Balkh-Badakhshan campaign aimed to install a friendly ruler in these regions north of Kabul to act as a buffer against Uzbek pressure. It was not primarily to reconquer the ancestral lands of Samarqand–Farghana, to push the frontier to the Amu Darya, or for general overseas expansion. ([gktoday.in](https://www.gktoday.in/question/which-of-the-following-was-the-motive-behind-shahj?utm_source=openai))

Q99. Who among the following was the first Bhakti saint to use Hindi for the propagation of his message?

- (a) Dadu
- (b) Kabir
- (c) Ramananda
- (d) Tulsidas

Answer: (c)

Ramananda (14th c.) is regarded as the first Bhakti saint to propagate his teachings in the early Hindi vernacular, laying the foundation for later north-Indian Bhakti poets such as Kabir and Tulsidas. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-2002-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

Q142. Assertion (A): Muhammad bin Tughlaq left Delhi, and, for two years lived in a camp called Swarga-dwari.

Reason (R): At that time, Delhi was ravaged by a form of plague and many people died.

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

Answer: (a)

Chroniclers record that a severe pestilence devastated Delhi, prompting Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq to abandon the capital and reside for about two years in a camp called Swargadwari near Kannauj; the plague was precisely the cause of his temporary relocation, so both statements are true and the Reason correctly explains the Assertion. ([drishtias.com](https://www.drishtias.com/to-the-points/paper1/the-delhi-sultanate-iii-the-tughlaq-dynasty-1320-1413?utm_source=openai))

Q26. Assertion (A): The Battle of Khanua was certainly more decisive and significant than the First Battle of Panipat.

Reason (R): Rana Sanga, the Rajput hero, was certainly a more formidable adversary than Ibrahim Lodi.

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

Answer: (d)

Assertion is incorrect because most historians regard the First Battle of Panipat (1526) as more decisive; it overthrew the Delhi Sultanate and opened the way for Mughal rule, whereas Khanua (1527) only consolidated Babur's position. Reason is correct—Rana Sanga's Rajput-Afghan coalition posed a tougher military challenge than Ibrahim Lodi. Hence A is false but R is true. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-2001-solved-question-paper/))

Q53. The shaded area in the above map shows the empire of

- (a) Ala-ud-din Khilji
- (b) Mohammad Tughlaq
- (c) Shah Jahan**
- (d) Aurangzeb

Answer: (c)

The map used by UPSC shows the Mughal territories extending from Kandahar in the north-west to parts of the Deccan but not including the far-southern conquests later added by Aurangzeb; this territorial outline corresponds to the empire under Shah Jahan. Ala-ud-din Khilji and Mohammad Tughlaq ruled much smaller north-Indian sultanates, while Aurangzeb's empire stretched further south and east. ([sarthaks.com](https://www.sarthaks.com/59123/the-shaded-area-in-the-above-map-shows-the-empire-of?utm_source=openai))

Q67. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:

List I (Bhakti Saint)

- I. Namdev
- II. Kabir
- III. Ravidas
- IV. Sena

List II (Profession)

- A) Barber
- B) Weaver
- C) Tailor
- D) Cobbler

- (a) I-B, II-C, III-A, IV-D
- (b) I-C, II-B, III-D, IV-A**
- (c) I-C, II-B, III-A, IV-D
- (d) I-B, II-C, III-D, IV-A

Answer: (b)

Namdev belonged to the tailor caste, Kabir earned his livelihood as a weaver, Ravidas worked with leather as a cobbler, and Sena (Sain) was a royal barber. Therefore the correct pairing is I-C, II-B, III-D, IV-A—option (b). ([insightsonindia.com](https://www.insightsonindia.com/indian-heritage-culture/bhakti-sufi-movement/bhakti-movement/namdev/?utm_source=openai))

Q83. The Mongols under Genghis Khan invaded India during the reign of

- (a) Balban
- (b) Feroze Tughlaq
- (c) Iltutmish**
- (d) Muhammad bin Tughlaq

Answer: (c)

Genghis Khan's pursuit of Khwarazm prince Jalal-ud-Din brought the first Mongol force to the Indus frontier in 1221, during the reign of Sultan Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (1211-36). Contemporary sources credit Iltutmish with successfully deflecting the invaders and preserving the Sultanate ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol_invasions_of_India?utm_source=openai)). Hence option (c).

Q92. Which among the following ports was called Babul Makka (Gate of Makka) during the Mughal Period?

- (a) Calicut
- (b) Broach
- (c) Cambay
- (d) Surat**

Answer: (d)

Surat was the principal embarkation point for Hajj pilgrims under the Mughals and earned the sobriquet 'Babul Makka' (Gate of Mecca). Calicut, Broach and Cambay were major trading ports but never bore this title. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-2001-solved-question-paper/))

Q98. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) **Dewan-i-bandagani ... Tughlaq**
- (b) Dewan-i-Mustakhraj ... Balban
- (c) Dewan-i-Kohi ... Alauddin Khilji
- (d) Dewan-i-Arz ... Muhammad Tughlaq

Answer: (a)

Dewan-i-Bandagani (department of slaves) was created by Firoz Shah Tughlaq, so the pair is correct. Dewan-i-Mustakhraj (arrears) was set up by Alauddin Khalji, not Balban; Dewan-i-Kohi (agriculture) was started by Muhammad bin Tughlaq, not Alauddin Khalji; Dewan-i-Arz (military) was instituted by Balban, not Muhammad Tughlaq. Thus only option (a) is correctly matched. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-2001-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

— 2000 —

Q30. Who among the following streamlined the Maratha administration after Sambhaji?

- (a) Raja Ram
- (b) **Balaji Viswanath**
- (c) Ganga Bai
- (d) Nanaji Deshmukh

Answer: (b)

After Sambhaji's death (1689), Balaji Viswanath became the first Peshwa (1713) under Shahu and reorganised revenue (chauth, sardeshmukhi) and military systems, thereby streamlining Maratha administration. The other figures did not effect comparable systemic reforms. ([uttarpradesh.pscnotes.com](https://uttarpradesh.pscnotes.com/uppcs-prelims/who-among-the-following-streamlined-the-maratha-administration-after/?utm_source=openai))

Q36. The given map refers to the kingdom of

- (a) **Akbar at the time of capture of Khandesh in 1601**
- (b) Akbar at the time of his death in 1605
- (c) Aurangzeb at the time of capture of Hyderabad
- (d) Aurangzeb at the time of his death in 1707

Answer: (a)

The shaded map in the UPSC question corresponds to the Mughal dominions just after Akbar annexed Khandesh (Asirgarh) in 1601, before later Deccan conquests; this option is given by official keys. ([upscgspedia.com](https://upscgspedia.com/upsc-prelims-pyqs-medieval-india/?utm_source=openai))

Q37. Consider the following events:

I. Reign of Krishna Deva Raya of Vijayanagara.

II. Construction of Qutab Minar.

III. Arrival of Portuguese in India.

IV. Death of Firoz Tughlaq.

Which one of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

(a) II, IV, III, I

(b) II, IV, I, III

(c) IV, II, I, III

(d) IV, II, III, I

Answer: (a)

Chronological order: Qutab Minar construction (c. 1199–1220)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qutab_Minar?utm_source=openai))(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firuz_Shah_Tughlaq?utm_source=openai)! Death (1388)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama?utm_source=openai))(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vasco_da_Gama?utm_source=openai)! Portuguese arrival (Vasco da Gama at Calicut, 1498)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krishnadevaraya?utm_source=openai))(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krishnadevaraya?utm_source=openai)! Krishna Deva Raya (1509-29)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krishnadevaraya?utm_source=openai))(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krishnadevaraya?utm_source=openai). Therefore sequence II, IV, III, I.

Q41. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:

List I

I. Iqta

II. Jagir

III. Amaram

IV. Mokasa

List II

A) Marathas

B) Delhi Sultans

C) Mughals

D) Vijayanagara

Codes:

(a) I-C, II-B, III-A, IV-D

(b) I-B, II-C, III-D, IV-A

(c) I-B, II-C, III-A, IV-D

(d) I-C, II-B, III-D, IV-A

Answer: (b)

Iqta was a revenue assignment used by the Delhi Sultans; Jagir denoted the land-revenue grants of the Mughal Empire; Amaram (under the Amara-Nayaka system) was the military-fief of the Vijayanagara rulers; Mokasa (or Saranjam) referred to Maratha land grants meant for troop maintenance. Hence the matching I-B, II-C, III-D, IV-A corresponds to option (b).

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iqta%27?utm_source=openai))(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iqta%27?utm_source=openai)

Q45. Which one of the following Muslim rulers was hailed as the 'Jagadguru' by his Muslim subjects because of his belief in secularism?

- (a) Husain Shah
- (b) Zain-ul-Abidin
- (c) Ibrahim Adil Shah**
- (d) Mahmud II

Answer: (c)

Ibrahim Adil Shah II of Bijapur (1580-1627) composed the syncretic work 'Kitab-i-Navras', worshipped Saraswati, and patronised both Hindu and Muslim arts; his tolerant policies earned him the epithet 'Jagadguru' (world teacher) from his Muslim as well as Hindu subjects. The Bengal ruler Husain Shah and Kashmir's Zain-ul-Abidin were also liberal but were never called 'Jagadguru', while Mahmud II was an Ottoman sultan unrelated to India. ([lichavilyceum.com](https://lichavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-2000-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

— 1999 —

Q5. "The king was freed from his people and they from their king". On whose death did Badauni comment thus?

- (a) Balban
- (b) Ala-ud-din Khalji
- (c) Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq**
- (d) Feroze Shah Tughlaq

Answer: (c)

Contemporary chronicler ʿAbd al-Qadir Badauni wrote that on Muhammad bin Tughlaq's death in 1351 "the king was freed from his people and they from their king," reflecting the misery caused by the sultan's eccentric policies. The remark is not associated with Balban, Ala-ud-din Khalji or Feroz Shah Tughlaq, so option (c) is correct. ([lichavilyceum.com](https://lichavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1999-solved-question-paper/))

Q27. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) Jahangir : William Hawkins
- (b) Akbar : Sir Thomas Roe**
- (c) Shahjahan : Tavernier
- (d) Aurangzeb : Manucci

Answer: (b)

Sir Thomas Roe actually visited the Mughal court of Jahangir (1615-19), not Akbar; thus the pair 'Akbar : Sir Thomas Roe' is the one that is NOT correctly matched, which is why the official answer key chooses option (b). The other pairings—Hawkins-Jahangir, Tavernier-Shah Jahan and Manucci-Aurangzeb—are historically accurate. ([scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com/document/824304277/UPSC-IAS-Prelims-GS-Solved-Question-Paper-1999?utm_source=openai))

Q53. To which Lodi Sultan does the given map relate and what town does the site marked A on the map represent?

- (a) **Behlol Lodi, Jaunpur**
- (b) Sikandar Lodi, Aligarh
- (c) Ibrahim Lodi, Jaunpur
- (d) Ibrahim Lodi, Aligarh

Answer: (a)

The map shows the Lodi Sultanate after Bahlol Lodi's eastern campaigns; the site 'A' is at the Ganga–Gomti confluence, identifying Jaunpur, which Bahlol captured from the Sharqi rulers in 1486. Sikandar and Ibrahim Lodi ruled later, but the territorial outline and conquest of Jaunpur are specifically associated with Bahlol Lodi. Hence option (a) is correct.

([upscgspedia.com](https://upscgspedia.com/upsc-prelims-pyqs-medieval-india/?utm_source=openai))

Q97. Assertion (A): During the time of Akbar, for every ten cavalymen, the mansabdars had to maintain twenty horses.

Reason (R): Horses had to be rested while on march and replacements were necessary in times of war.

- (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 a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

Answer: (a)

Akbar's mansabdars were obliged to maintain twice as many horses as mounted troopers (i.e., 20 horses for every 10 cavalymen) so that tired or injured mounts could be replaced on campaign; both Assertion and Reason are true and the Reason correctly explains the rule, making (a) the right choice. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1999-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

— 1998 —

Q27. Assertion (A): At first the Turkish administration in India was essentially military.

Reason (R): The country was parcelled out as 'Iqta's among leading military leaders.

- (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 a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

Answer: (a)

Early Turkish rule in India rested on military control; the Sultan parcelled conquered territory into 'iqtas' held by military commanders who collected revenue and maintained troops, making the administration essentially a military one. Hence both Assertion and Reason are true, and the Reason directly explains the Assertion. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-service-s-prelims-1998-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

Q34. Assertion (A): During the reign of Shahjahan, Dara Sikoh was sent on expedition to Balkha, Badakh-shan and Qandahar.

Reason (R): The expedition sent by Shahjahan to the Middle East was a marvellous success.

- (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 a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false**
- (d) A is false, but R is true

Answer: (c)

Dara Shikoh was indeed dispatched to lead Mughal forces in Balkh, Badakhshan and Qandahar, but the campaigns ended in costly failure, not a 'marvellous success'; hence A is true while R is false. ([selfstudyhistory.com](https://selfstudyhistory.com/2015/04/05/prelims-ias-general-studies-solved-paper-with-explanations-1998-part-4/))

Q39. Consider the following statements: Ahadis were those troopers who

- I. offered their services singly.**
 - II. did not attach themselves to any chief.**
 - III. had the emperor as their immediate colonel.**
 - IV. attached themselves to Mirzas.**
- Of these statements:**

- (a) I, II and IV are correct
- (b) I, II and III are correct**
- (c) II and III are correct
- (d) I and IV are correct

Answer: (b)

Ahadis were 'gentleman-troopers' recruited one by one; they served directly under the emperor and were not attached to any mansabdar or chief, hence statements I, II and III are correct while IV is wrong. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Army_of_the_Mughal_Empire?utm_source=openal))

Q44. Consider the following:

I. Tughluqabad Fort.

II. Lodi Garden.

III. Qutub Minar.

IV. Fatehpur Sikri.

The correct chronological order in which they were built is:

(a) III, I, IV, II

(b) III, I, II, IV

(c) I, III, II, IV

(d) I, III, IV, II

Answer: (b)

Chronologically, Qutub Minar was begun in 1199 CE and finished by 1220 CE

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qutub_Minariutm_source=openai)); Tughluqabad Fort was

built in 1321 CE ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tughluqabad_Fortutm_source=openai));

the earliest tombs in today's Lodi Garden date to 1444 CE (Muhammad Shah)

([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lodi_Gardensutm_source=openai)); Fatehpur Sikri was

constructed by Akbar between 1571-1585 CE

([whc.unesco.org](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/255?utm_source=openai)). Hence the o
IV.

Q49. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:

List I

I. 1556

II. 1600

III. 1686

IV. 1739

List II

A) Battle of Haldighati

B) Nadir Shah's capture of Delhi

C) Death of Shivaji

D) Grant of Charter to East India Company

E) Accession of Akbar

Codes:

(a) I-C, II-D, III-B, IV-A

(b) I-E, II-D, III-C, IV-B

(c) I-E, II-B, III-A, IV-D

(d) I-A, II-E, III-C, IV-B

Answer: (b)

1556 marks the accession of Akbar; 1600 is the year Queen Elizabeth I granted the charter to the English

East India Company; Shivaji died in 1680 (question misprints 1686 but the intent is clear); and Nadir Shah

sacked Delhi in 1739. This matches the sequence I-E, II-D, III-C, IV-B, corresponding to code 5-4-3-2, i.e.,

option (b). ([scribd.com](https://www.scribd.com/document/748523618/Medival-History-Ghatnachakra-2022

?utm_source=openai))

Q53. In the given map, the shaded part represents Akbar's empire at a certain juncture: 'A' stands for an independent country and 'B' marks the site of a city. Which one of the following alternatives gives all correct information?

- (a) Akbar in 1557: (A) Golkunda (B) Lahore
- (b) Akbar in 1557: (A) Khandesh (B) Multan
- (c) Akbar in 1605: (A) Gondwana (B) Multan
- (d) Akbar in 1605: (A) Gondwana (B) Lahore**

Answer: (d)

The map in the paper depicts the Mughal Empire at the end of Akbar's reign (1605). 'A' corresponds to the still-independent Gondwana region in central India, while 'B' lies on the north-western frontier marking Lahore—one of Akbar's key provincial capitals. Hence the fully correct combination is: Akbar in 1605 – (A) Gondwana; (B) Lahore. ([gktoday.in](https://www.gktoday.in/question/in-the-given-map-the-shaded-part-represents-akbars?utm_source=openai))

Q63. The member of Shivaji's Astha Pradhana who looked after foreign affairs was

- (a) Peshwa
- (b) Sachiv
- (c) Pandit Rao
- (d) Sumant**

Answer: (d)

In Shivaji's eight-member Ashta Pradhan council, the Sumant (also called Dabir) handled diplomacy and relations with other states, i.e., foreign affairs. Posts like Peshwa (Prime Minister), Sachiv (Home/Secretariat) and Pandit Rao (Ecclesiastical head) had different portfolios. ([claritydeskhub.com](https://claritydeskhub.com/maratha-administration-under-shivaji-maharaj-upsc/?utm_source=openai))

Q70. The loss of Qandahar was a big blow to the Mughal empire from the viewpoint of

- (a) Natural resources
- (b) Buffer territory
- (c) Communication
- (d) Strategic stronghold**

Answer: (d)

Kandahar (Qandahar) guarded the vital Kabul–Central Asia–Persia route; whoever controlled it dominated trade and invasion corridors. Its loss in 1622 to the Safavids therefore cost the Mughals a key frontier fortress and strategic stronghold, not merely resources, buffering or communications. ([britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com/place/Kandahar?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1998

Medieval History › Delhi Sultanate

moderate

Q80. Fawazil in the Sultanate period meant

- (a) Extra payment made to the nobles
- (b) Revenue assigned in lieu of salary
- (c) Excess amount paid to the exchequer by the iqtadars**
- (d) Illegal exactions extracted from the peasants

Answer: (c)

Fawazil were the surpluses left with an iqtadar after he had realised revenue from his iqta collections had to be deposited with the royal exchequer. Therefore option (c) – ‘excess amount paid to the exchequer by the iqtadars’ – is correct; the other options describe different financial practices. ([selfstudyhistory.com](https://selfstudyhistory.com/2015/04/05/prelims-ias-general-studies-solved-paper-with-explanations-1998-part-9/))

UPSC 1998

Medieval History › Delhi Sultanate

easy

Q88. The Sultan of Delhi who is reputed to have built the biggest network of canals in India was

- (a) Iltutmish
- (b) Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq
- (c) Feroz Shah Tughlaq**
- (d) Sikandar Lodi

Answer: (c)

Feroz Shah Tughlaq (1351-1388 CE) is famous for an extensive state-built irrigation system, including canals from the Yamuna to Hissar and from the Sutlej to the Ghaggar, giving him the reputation of having built the largest canal network among the Delhi Sultans. ([indiatoday.in](https://www.indiatoday.in/amp/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/delhi-under-firoz-shah-tuglaq-reign-of-the-third-ruler-of-tughlaq-dynasty-1344778-2018-09-20?utm_source=openai))

— 1997 —

UPSC 1997

Medieval History › Delhi Sultanate

easy

Q2. After consolidating his power, Balban assumed the grand title of

- (a) Tute-i-Hind
- (b) Kaisr-i-Hind
- (c) Zil-i-Ilahi**
- (d) Din-i-Ilahi

Answer: (c)

Ghiyas-ud-din Balban adopted the title ‘Zil-i-Ilahi’ (Shadow of God) to assert the divine aura of kingship and strengthen central authority. The other titles belong to different rulers or later periods: Tute-i-Hind to Amir Khusrau, Kaisr-i-Hind is honorific for British monarchs, and Din-i-Ilahi was Akbar’s syncretic faith. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1997-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

Q9. The head of the military department under the reorganised central machinery of administration during Akbar's reign was

- (a) Diwan
- (b) Mir Bakshi**
- (c) Mir Saman
- (d) Bakshi

Answer: (b)

Akbar reorganised the central government on Persian lines: the Mir Bakshi was the head of the military and intelligence department, maintaining the mansabdars' rolls and issuing pay-orders. Diwan handled revenue/finance, Mir Saman supervised the royal household stores, and the simple title "Bakshi" was not a separate office. Hence option (b) Mir Bakshi is correct.

([aspireias.com](https://www.aspireias.com/upsc-general-study-10years-paper/1997))

Q14. Assertion (A): The sponsor and the most prominent figure of the Chisti order of Sufis in India is Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti.

Reason (R): The Chisti order takes its name from a village Chisti in Ajmer.

In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?

- (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 a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false**
- (d) A is false, but R is true

Answer: (c)

Khwaja Muin-ud-Din (Moinuddin) Chishti is regarded as the pioneer and most venerated figure of the Chishti silsila in India, so Assertion A is correct. The order, however, is named after the town of Chisht (near Herat) in present-day Afghanistan—not after Ajmer—so Reason R is false. Hence A is true but R is false, making option (c) correct. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chishti_Order?utm_source=openai))

Q69. The medieval Indian writer who refers to the discovery of America is

- (a) Malik Muhammad Jayasi
- (b) Amir Khusrau
- (c) Raskhan
- (d) Abul Fazl**

Answer: (d)

Shaikh Abul Fazl (1551-1602), Akbar's court historian and author of the Akbarnama/Ain-i-Akbari, makes a passing reference to the 'newly discovered Vilayat-i-Amrika (America)'. No such mention occurs in the works of Malik Muhammad Jayasi, Amir Khusrau or Raskhan, so option (d) is correct. ([gktoday.in](https://www.gktoday.in/question/who-among-the-following-is-the-medieval-indian-wr?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1996

Medieval History › Sufism

easy

Q57. The sufi saint who maintained that devotional music was one way of coming close to God was

- (a) Muin-ud-din Chishti**
- (b) Baba Farid
- (c) Saiyid Muhammad Gesudaraz
- (d) Shah Alam Bukhari

Answer: (a)

Khwaja Muin-ud-din Chishti, founder of the Chishti order in India, upheld sama (Qawwali music) as a legitimate means to kindle divine love and draw nearer to God; later Chishti masters like Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki and Baba Farid followed this precedent. ([thelightofgolrasharif.com](https://thelightofgolrasharif.com/Website/TheLightofGolraSharif/hazrat/views_on_sama.htm?utm_source=openai))

UPSC 1996

Medieval History › Mughal Empire

easy

Q86. In medieval India, Mansabdari system was introduced mainly for

- (a) making recruitment to the army**
- (b) facilitating revenue collection
- (c) ensuring religious harmony
- (d) effecting clean administration

Answer: (a)

Akbar's Mansabdari system fixed numerical 'mansabs' (ranks) that determined how many cavalry a mansabdar had to maintain, thus serving primarily as a mechanism for recruiting, organizing and paying the Mughal army. It was not created for revenue collection, religious harmony or general civil administration. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1996-solved-question-paper/?utm_source=openai))

— 1995 —

UPSC 1995

Medieval History › Medieval Culture & Historiography

moderate

Q34. Who among the following were famous jurists of medieval India?

- I. Vijnanesvara
- II. Hemadri
- III. Rajasekhara
- IV. Jimutavahana

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) I, II and III
- (b) II, III and IV
- (c) I, II and IV**
- (d) I and IV

Answer: (c)

Vijnanesvara (author of Mitakshara), Hemadri and Jimutavahana (author of Dayabhaga) were celebrated Hindu law jurists of the medieval period; Rajasekhara was a 10th-century poet-dramatist, not a noted jurist. Thus statements I, II and IV are correct. ([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1995-solved-question-paper/))

Q66. Ashtapradhan was a Council of Ministers

- (a) in the Gupta Administration
- (b) in the Chola Administration
- (c) in the Vijayanagar Administration
- (d) in the Maratha Administration**

Answer: (d)

The Ashtapradhan was an eight-member council of ministers created by Chhatrapati Shivaji for the Maratha state. Portfolios such as Peshwa (prime minister) and Amatya (finance) formed part of this body. Gupta, Chola and Vijayanagar administrations never had a council called Ashtapradhan.

([licchavilyceum.com](https://licchavilyceum.com/upsc-civil-services-prelims-1995-solved-question-paper/))

Q70. Consider the map given below:

The route indicated in the map was followed, during the course of his military exploits, by

- (a) Chandragupta II
- (b) Harshavardhana
- (c) Rajendra Chola
- (d) Malik Kafur**

Answer: (d)

The map in the paper traces a march from Delhi through Devagiri and Warangal to Dwarasamudra and finally Madurai—exactly the route taken by Alauddin Khalji's general Malik Kafur in his 1310-11 southern campaign. Rajendra Chola's expeditions moved north-east towards the Ganga and overseas to South-East Asia, not along this north-south peninsular axis; Chandragupta II and Harsha campaigned mainly in northern India. ([sarthaks.com](https://www.sarthaks.com/59039/the-route-indicated-in-the-map-was-followed-during-the-course-of-his-military-exploits-by))

Q73. Hugly was used as a base for piracy in the Bay of Bengal by

- (a) the Portuguese**
- (b) the French
- (c) the Danish
- (d) the British

Answer: (a)

The Portuguese obtained permission to settle at Hooghly (1579) but soon turned it into a base for piracy and slave-trading in the Bay of Bengal until Mughal forces expelled them in 1632. The French, Danish and British had factories in Bengal but were not associated with piracy from Hooghly. ([adda247.com](https://www.adda247.com/question-answer/hooghly-was-used-as-a-base-for-piracy-in-the-bay-of-bengal-by/q.v1.3e7f49b7-5dfe-4572-862c-6b3bde148a8c-en?utm_source=openai))

Q75. The 'Modi script' was employed in the documents of the

- (a) Wodeyars
- (b) Zamorins
- (c) Hoysalas
- (d) Marathas**

Answer: (d)

Modi (MM +) was a cursive administrative script used in the Maratha kingdom for revenue records; it is closely associated with Marathi and the Maratha bureaucracy. The Wodeyars (Mysore), Zamorins (Calicut) and Hoysalas (Karnataka) employed different scripts and were not connected with Modi. ([sarthaks.com](https://www.sarthaks.com/59309/the-modi-script-was-employed-in-the-documents-of-the?utm_source=openai))