IYACHAMY ACADEMY
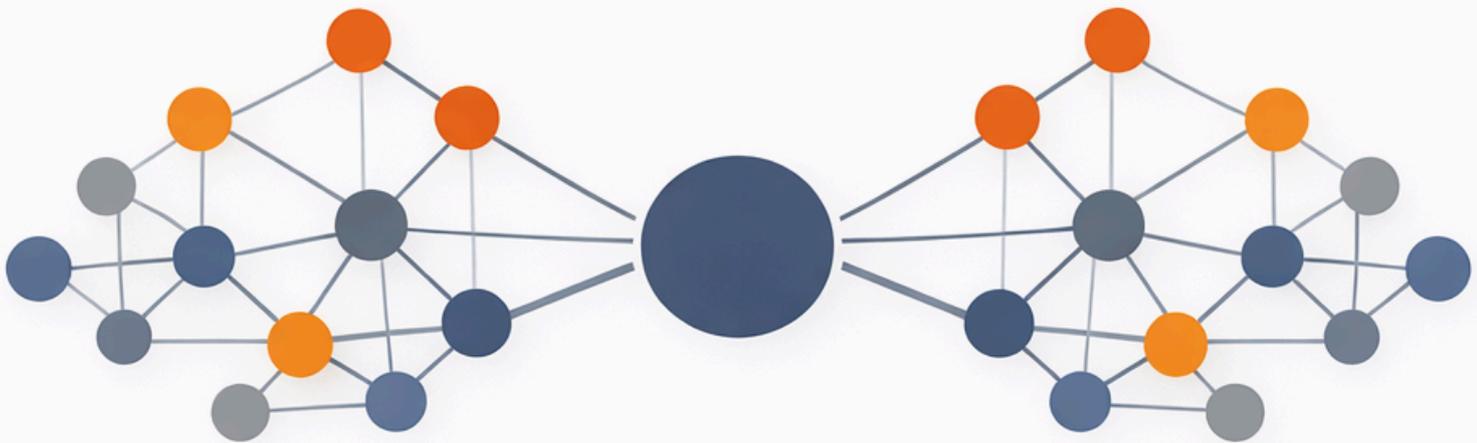
UPSC PRELIMS PYQ TREND MAP

MEDIEVAL INDIA & CULTURE

Art & Architecture • Literature • Politics

SERIES-2

30 Years Coverage
(1995–2025)

Micro-Topic Analysis

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MEDIEVAL INDIA

PYQ TREND MAP -2

PYQ TREND MAP (1995–2025)

Theme	Scope & Weightage	Core Micro-Topics (The "What")
1. Politics & Society	56 PYQs (1995–2025)	– **Mughal Admin:** *Mansabdari* (Zat/Sawar), *Jagirdari* vs. *Zamindari*, *Ahadis*. – **Socio-Economic Terms:** *Araghatta* (Persian wheel), *Fanam* (coins), *Hundi* (bills), *Fawazil*. – **Delhi Sultanate:** *Iqta* system, Department matching (*Diwan-i-Kohi*), Revenue officials (*Amil*). – **Vijayanagara:** *Nayankara* system, Taxation, Infrastructure (Devaraya's dam).
2. Art & Architecture	30 PYQs (1995–2022)	– **Monuments:** Chronology (Tughlaq → Lodi → Mughal), Materials (Red Sandstone vs. Marble), Regional styles (Bijapur's Gol Gumbaz). – **Painting:** Evolution of Mughal painting (Akbar's manuscripts vs. Jahangir's portraits). – **Music:** *Dhrupad*, *Khayal*, Tansen's contributions.
3. Literature & Language	5 PYQs (1997–2022)	– **Translations:** Akbar's *Maktab Khana* (Sanskrit to Persian), *Yogavasistha*, *Razmnama*. – **Authors:** Amir Khusrau (Urdu origins), Albiruni, Barani (Historiography). – **Scripts:** *Nastaliq* (Persian script).
4. Bhakti & Sufi Movements	9 PYQs (1997–2019)	– **Bhakti Saints: Timeline & Contemporaneity** (Who lived with whom?), Nimbarka, Kabir, Tulsidas. – **Sufism:** Orders (*Silsilas*), Practices (Breath control), Saint-Ruler mapping (Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi vs. Akbar/Jahangir). – **Philosophy:** *Saguna* vs. *Nirguna*, Monotheism, Rejection of caste (Lingayats).
5. Foreign Invasions & Battles	5 PYQs (2001–2022)	– **Timeline:** Genghis Khan (Iltutmish era), Timur (1398), Vasco da Gama (1498), Ahmad Shah Abdali. – **Battles:** 3rd Battle of Panipat (Geopolitical reasons), Battle of Dharmat. – **Impact:** Introduction of new technologies (Gunpowder debate).

MEDIEVAL INDIA

POLITICS & SOCIETY

Delhi Sultanate | Mughals | Vijayanagara | Socio-Economic Terms | Invasions & Battles | Maps

56 PYQs | 1995–2025 | 6 Themes | 70+ Micro-Topics

OVERVIEW: MEDIEVAL INDIA PYQ LANDSCAPE (1995–2025)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority

Delhi Sultanate: Rulers & Administration	10	1996–2021	HIGH
Mughal Empire: Rulers, Admin & Campaigns	15	1996–2019	VERY HIGH
Vijayanagara & Southern States	9	1995–2023	HIGH ↑
Medieval Socio-Economic Terms & Society	12	1996–2025	VERY HIGH ↑
Foreign Invasions & Battles	5	2001–2022	HIGH
Maps & Military Routes	5	1995–2001	MEDIUM

KEY INSIGHT: Domain Pattern Analysis

- MUGHAL ADMINISTRATION is the single most tested area: 15 questions (27%) — Mansabdari, Jagirdari, Iqta dominate
- SOCIO-ECONOMIC TERMS have SURGED dramatically: Araghatta (tested TWICE: 2016 & 2025), Fanam, Kulah-Daran, Aurang, Banian
- VIJAYANAGARA is RISING: Devaraya I's dam (2023), Krishnadeva's taxation (2016), Harihara I (2015)
- Delhi Sultanate questions DECLINED post-2021 but admin terms (Amil, Iqta, Fawazil) remain in active syllabus
- Assertion-Reason format was DOMINANT in 1998–2003 but has been REPLACED by statement-based matching
- MAP QUESTIONS have DISAPPEARED post-2001 but the underlying GEOGRAPHICAL knowledge is still essential
- UPSC's post-2015 shift: from 'Who did what?' to 'What does this term mean?' and 'How did this system work?'
- 2025 Araghatta question confirms: ECONOMIC/AGRICULTURAL terminology is the NEW frontline

Main Theme	Sub-Themes / Areas of Focus
1. Delhi Sultanate: Rulers & Administration	- Administrative hierarchy (Paragana, Sarkar, Suba) - Revenue administration (Amil, Fawazil, Iqta system origins) - Departmental matching (Dewan-i-Bandagani, Kohi, Arz, Mustakhraj) - Chronology of ruling dynasties (e.g., Lodi, Tughlaq)

	– Ruler-specific achievements (Canal networks, slave departments, titles)
2. Mughal Empire: Rulers, Admin & Campaigns	– Mansabdari system mechanics (Zat, Sawar, cavalry ratios) – Land assignment types (Jagirdar vs. Zamindar, Ahadis) – Military department structure (Mir Bakshi vs. Diwan) – Comparative land systems (Iqta vs. Jagir vs. Amaram vs. Mokasa) – Key battles and decisive turns (Panipat, Khanua, Dharmat) – Military campaigns (Akbar's Afghan march, Shah Jahan's Balkh campaign)
3. Vijayanagara Empire & Southern States	– Infrastructure and public works (Dams, canals, aqueducts) – Taxation systems (Land quality base, industry/workshop taxes) – Religious legitimation of authority (Rulers as "agents of deity") – Internal dynastic successions (Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva, Aravidu) – Deccan Sultanate interactions and the Maratha Ashtapradhan system
4. Medieval Socio-Economic Terms & Society	– Agricultural & irrigation technology (Araghatta, Dhenkli, Charsa) – Economic vocabulary (Hundi, Aurang/Warehouse, Fanam/Coins) – Social categories and professions (Banjaras, Sayyids, Banians, Mirasidars) – Feudal system characteristics (Lord-vassal relationships) – Village administration (Mahattara, Pattakila) – Medieval scripts and language (Nastaliq, Persian)
5. Foreign Invasions & Battles	– Mongol invasion timeline (Iltutmish through Tughlaq periods) – Precise arrival dates of foreign explorers (e.g., Vasco da Gama) – 18th-century battles (3rd Battle of Panipat: Abdali vs. Marathas) – Regional impacts of Timur and Genghis Khan
6. Maps & Military Routes	– Territorial extents of empires at specific dates (Akbar 1557 vs. 1605) – Geographical matching of medieval states to modern regions – Strategic military campaign routes (e.g., Malik Kafur's southern route) – Political fragmentation and the rise of regional Nawabs
7. Trade & Material Culture	– Medieval trade routes (Overland/Silk Road vs. Maritime/Gujarat/Malabar) – Coinage systems (Fanam, Pagoda, Rupee, Tanka) – Institutional evolution (How systems like Iqta transformed into Jagir) – Cultural synthesis (Sufi-Bhakti interaction and religious experiments)

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Most Asked Micro-Topics

- Mughal administrative systems: Mansabdari, Jagirdari, Mir Bakshi, Ahadis (10+ Qs)
- Medieval terminology decoding: Araghatta, Fanam, Fawazil, Banjaras, Nastaliq (12 Qs)
- Delhi Sultanate administration: Iqta, Dewans, hierarchy (8 Qs)
- Vijayanagara dynasty + governance: succession, taxation, infrastructure (9 Qs)
- Invasion chronology: Mongols, Timur, Portuguese arrival timing (5 Qs)

Under-Asked but RISING Areas

- Socio-economic vocabulary: Araghatta repeated in 2025 — entire AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY set may follow
- Deccan Sultanates: Bahmani, Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Golconda — largely untested
- Medieval trade: Banjara routes, Hundi networks, port-trade connections
- Vijayanagara infrastructure: dams, canals, urban planning
- Later Mughal decline: Jahandar Shah, Shah Alam II — tested in 2003 but may return

Concept Clusters UPSC is Building

- CLUSTER 1: Administrative Vocabulary Bank — Sultanate + Mughal + Vijayanagara + Maratha terms
- CLUSTER 2: Land Assignment Systems — Iqta → Jagir → Amaram → Mokasa (cross-dynasty comparison)
- CLUSTER 3: Medieval Economic History — coins, trade, irrigation, revenue mechanics
- CLUSTER 4: Vijayanagara Deep Dive — succession, taxation, deity-legitimation, SE Asian parallels
- CLUSTER 5: Invasion Timeline — Genghis Khan → Timur → Babur → Abdali (precise ruler-matching)

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- Medieval India is NOT about memorising king lists — UPSC has SYSTEMATICALLY shifted to INSTITUTIONAL MECHANICS and SOCIO-ECONOMIC vocabulary since 2014
- Administrative terminology (Jagirdar, Amil, Fawazil, Mahattara) tests whether aspirants understand HOW medieval states functioned internally
- The Jagirdar≠Zamindar distinction (2019, 'Neither' answer) reveals UPSC's philosophy: PARTIAL knowledge is penalised more than ignorance
- Araghatta being tested TWICE shows UPSC treats irrigation technology as CIVILISATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE, not trivia
- Vijayanagara's rising prominence reflects UPSC's South India correction: Devaraya's dam, Krishnadeva's taxation, Harihara's religious legitimation
- Cross-dynasty comparison (Iqta/Jagir/Amaram/Mokasa) tests COMPARATIVE ANALYTICAL ability — a civil service competency

- Invasion timeline questions test whether aspirants can place events PRECISELY on the calendar: Genghis Khan (1221), Timur (1398), Vasco da Gama (1498)
- The 2003 Mughal concentration (5 questions) shows UPSC can intensely focus on ONE sub-domain in a single paper
- Feudal system questions (2015) test CONCEPTUAL understanding of political systems, not names and dates
- Map questions (1995–2001) tested SPATIAL intelligence — this skill is now tested through text-based geographical matching

The Hidden Syllabus UPSC is Testing

- INSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION: How did Iqta become Jagir? How did Mansabdari evolve? UPSC tests PROCESS, not just facts
- ECONOMIC VOCABULARY: Fanam (coins), Hundi (bills), Araghatta (waterwheel), Banjara (traders) = a medieval economic glossary
- ADMINISTRATIVE COMPARISON: Sultan's Dewan system vs Mughal Mansabdari vs Vijayanagara Nayankara vs Maratha Ashtapradhan
- RELIGIOUS LEGITIMATION: Harihara I as 'agent of deity', Balban as 'Shadow of God', Mughal claim to caliphal authority
- DECCAN BALANCE: Vijayanagara + Bahmani + Deccan Sultanates form a COMPLETE South Indian medieval package — expect MORE
- TECHNOLOGY HISTORY: Araghatta, gunpowder debate, canal-building = UPSC values material civilisation alongside political
- CHRONOLOGICAL LITERACY: Every aspirant must have a MENTAL TIMELINE spanning 1000–1700 AD with key events precisely placed

Top Conceptual Traps in This Domain

- Jagirdar = salary-based (NOT judicial/police); assignments NOT hereditary — 2019 'Neither' answer
- Iqta = Central Asian/Islamic origin (NOT ancient indigenous Indian)
- Mir Bakshi = MUGHAL institution (NOT Khalji Sultanate)
- Babur did NOT introduce gunpowder or arch-dome to India — they pre-existed
- Ashtapradhan = MARATHA (NOT Vijayanagara) — cross-dynasty attribution trap
- Araghatta = waterwheel with earthen pots (NOT leather water bag or bucket)
- Aurang = warehouse (NOT treasury in-charge) — subtle definition trap
- Kuluta = Kullu Valley HP (NOT Malabar) — geographical mismatch
- Feudal system = WEAK central authority + land-based admin (NOT strong centre)
- 1st Mongol invasion = ILTUTMISH (NOT Jalal-ud-din Khalji) — Genghis Khan's pursuit
- 3rd Panipat = Abdali vs MARATHAS (NOT Ibrahim Lodi — that's 1st Panipat)
- Vasco da Gama (1498) vs Deva Raya II (d. 1446) — 52-year anachronism
- Balban's title = ZIL-I-ILAHI (NOT Tute-i-Hind [Amir Khusrau] or Din-i-Ilahi [Akbar])

REVISION BLUEPRINT

IYACHAMY ACADEMY

Priority	Micro-Topic	Source	Freq
1	Mughal admin: Mansabdari, Jagirdari, Dewans	Satish Chandra + NCERT 12	15 Qs
2	Medieval socio-economic terms glossary	Satish Chandra + compilations	12 Qs (↑)
3	Delhi Sultanate admin: Iqta, Dewan departments	Satish Chandra + NCERT	10 Qs
4	Vijayanagara: dynasty, taxation, infrastructure	TN Board + NCERT + Satish Chandra	9 Qs (↑)
5	Invasion timeline: Mongols, Timur, Portuguese	NCERT 12 + Satish Chandra	5 Qs
6	Land assignment cross-dynasty comparison	Self-prepared comparative table	4 Qs
7	Medieval Indian political maps	Atlas + NCERT maps	5 Qs (implicit)
8	Deccan Sultanates	Satish Chandra + standard	2 Qs (rising)
9	Later Mughal decline	Satish Chandra + current affairs	2 Qs
10	Medieval irrigation & agricultural tech	NCERT + Irfan Habib's works	2 Qs (↑)

Source Linkage

- PRIMARY: Satish Chandra — History of Medieval India (most comprehensive for Sultanate + Mughal)
- NCERT Class 7: Our Pasts II (Delhi Sultans, Mughal Empire)
- NCERT Class 11: Themes in Indian History (Vijayanagara, Mughal court)
- NCERT Class 12: Themes in Indian History II (Mughal administration, Ain-i-Akbari)
- Tamil Nadu Board Class 11: History (excellent for Vijayanagara, Cholas, Deccan Sultanates)
- Self-prepared COMPARATIVE TABLES: Sultanate vs Mughal vs Vijayanagara vs Maratha admin
- ATLAS: Political maps of each century (1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 1600, 1700)

HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026 Prelims

- Medieval economic/agricultural terms: CONTINUATION of Araghatta trend — expect Persian wheel, Dhenkli, Charsa
- Mughal revenue system: Zabti, Batai, Nasaq + Todar Mal's reform — NEVER directly tested

- Deccan Sultanates: Bahmani split, Bijapur's architecture, Golconda's diamonds — UNDER-TESTED
- Vijayanagara Nayankara system + local governance — convergence with Polity
- Maratha administration: Ashtapradhan details, Chauth/Sardeshmukhi — Shivaji's state building
- Cross-dynasty term comparison: one table question covering 4+ dynasties simultaneously
- Medieval trade routes: overland (Silk Road remnants) + maritime (Gujarat, Malabar ports)
- Sufi-Bhakti interaction: cultural synthesis as UPSC values India's composite heritage
- Later Mughal political fragmentation: rise of Awadh, Hyderabad, Bengal nawabs
- Medieval Indian coinage: Fanam, Pagoda, Rupee, Tanka — material culture testing

MEDIEVAL INDIA (POLITICS AND SOCIETY)
DELHI SULTANATE: RULERS AND ADMINISTRATION

1. With reference to medieval India, which one of the following is the correct sequence in ascending order in terms of size? [2021]
   a) Paragana, Sarkar, Suba
   b) Sarkar, Paragana, Suba
   c) Suba, Sarkar, Paragana
   d) Paragana, Suba, Sarkar

2. Consider the following statements: [2019]
   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

3. Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the Afghan rules to the throne of Delhi? [2006]
   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

4. Who was the last ruler of the Tughluq dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate? [2004]
   a) Firuz Shah Tughluq
   b) Ghiyas ud din Tughluq Shah II
   c) Nasir ud din Mahmud
   d) Nasrat Shah

5. How did Sultan Qutb ud din Aibak die? [2003]
   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

6. With reference to medieval Indian rulers, which one of the following statements is correct? [2002]

    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

7. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched? [2001]

    a) Dewan-i-bandagani - Tughlaq

    b) Dewan-i-Mustakhraj - Balban

    c) Dewan-i-Kohi - Alauddin Khilji

    d) Dewan-i-Arz - Muhammad Tughlaq

8. Assertion (A): At first the Turkish administration in India was essentially military. [1998]

    Reason (R): The country was parcelled out as 'Iqtas' 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

9. The Sultan of Delhi who is reputed to have built the biggest network of canals in India was [1998]

    a) Iltutmish

    b) Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq

    c) Feroz Shah Tughlaq

    d) Sikandar Lodi

10. After consolidating his power, Balban assumed the grand title of: [1997]

    a) Tute-i-Hind

    b) Kaisr-i-Hind

    c) Zil-i-Ilahi

    d) Din-i-Ilahi

MUGHAL EMPIRE: RULERS, ADMINISTRATION, AND CAMPAIGNS

11. With reference to Mughal India, what is/are the difference/differences between Jagirdar and Zamindar? [2019]

    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

12. Consider the following: [2015]

    1) The arrival of Babur into India led to the:

    2) Introduction of gunpowder

3) Introduction of the arch and dome in the region's architecture

4) Establishment of Timurid dynasty

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

13. Alam Khan, one of those who invited Babar to invade India was: [2003]

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 form 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.

14. The Battle of Dharmat was fought between: [2003]

a) Muhammad Gori and Jai Chand

b) Babar and the Afghans

c) Aurangzeb and Dara Shikoh

d) Ahmad Shah Durrani and the Marathas

15. How did the Mughal Emperor Jahandar Shah's reign come to an early end? [2003]

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

16. Assertion (A): Emperor Akbar marched towards Afghanistan in 1581 with a huge army. [2003]

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

17. Assertion (A): Shah Alam II spent the initial years as an Emperor far away from his capital. [2003]

Reason (R): There was always a lurking danger of foreign invasion from the north west frontier.

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

18. The motive behind Shahjahan's Balkh campaign was to: [2002]

a) Secure a friendly ruler in Balkh and Badakshan 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

19. Assertion (A): The Battle of Khanua was certainly more decisive and significant than the First Battle of Panipat. [2001]

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

20. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists: [2000]

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

21. Assertion (A): During the time of Akbar, for every ten cavalrymen, the mansabdars had to maintain twenty horses. [1999]

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

22. Assertion (A): During the reign of Shahjahan, Dara Sikoh was sent on expedition to Balkha, Badakh-shan and Qandahar. [1998]

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

23. Consider the following statements: Ahadis were those troopers who [1998]

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, III and IV are correct

b) I, II and III are correct

c) II and III are correct

d) I and IV are correct

24. The head of the military department under the reorganised central machinery of administration during Akbar's reign was [1997]

a) Diwan

b) Mir Bakshi

c) Mir Saman

d) Bakshi

25. In medieval India, Mansabdari system was introduced mainly for [1996]

a) Making recruitment to the army

b) Facilitating revenue collection

c) Ensuring religious harmony

d) Effecting clean administration

VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE AND SOUTHERN STATES

26. Who among the following rulers of Vijayanagara Empire constructed a large dam across Tungabhadra River and a canal-cum-aqueduct several kilometers long from the river to the capital city? [2023]
    a) Devaraya I
    b) Mallikarjuna
    c) Vira Vijaya
    d) Virupaksha

27. Regarding the taxation system of Krishna Deva, the ruler of Vijayanagar, consider the following statements: [2016]
    The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality of the land.
    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

28. 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? [2015]
    a) Amoghavarsha I
    b) Ballala II
    c) Harihara I
    d) Prataparudra II

29. When Raja Wodeyar founded the kingdom of Mysore, who was the ruler of the Vijayanagar Empire? [2006]
    a) Sadasiva
    b) Tirumala
    c) Ranga II
    d) Venkata II

30. How did the dynasty of Nizam Shahis of Ahmadnagar come to an end? [2004]
    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.

31. Consider the following statements: [2004]
    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 the 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

32. Assertion (A): Saluva Narasimha put an end to the old dynasty and assumed the royal title.: [2003]
    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

33. Consider the following events: [2000]
    I. Reign of Krishna Deva Raya of Vijayanagara.
    II. Construction of Qutab Minar.
    III. Arrival of Portuguese in India.
    IV. Death of Firoz Tughlaq.
    Chronological order:
    a) II, IV, III, I
    b) II, IV, I, III
    c) IV, II, I, III
    d) IV, II, III, I

34. Ashtapradhan was a Council of Ministers [1995]
    a) In the Gupta Administration
    b) In the Chola Administration
    c) In the Vijayanagar Administration
    d) In the Maratha Administration

MEDIEVAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC TERMS AND SOCIETY

35. The irrigation device called 'Araghatta' was: [2025]
    a) a water bag made of leather pulled over a pulley
    b) a large wheel with earthen pots tied to the outer ends of its spokes
    c) a larger earthen pot driven by bullocks
    d) a large water bucket pulled up by rope directly by hand

36. In medieval India, the term "Fanam" referred to: [2022]
    a) Clothing
    b) Coins
    c) Ornaments
    d) Weapons

37. With reference to Indian history, which of the following were known as "Kulah-Daran"? [2022]
    a) Arab merchants
    b) Qalandars
    c) Persian calligraphists
    d) Sayyids

38. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs: [2020]
    1) Aurang: In-charge of treasury of the State
    2) Banian: Indian agent of the East India Company
    3) Mirasidar: Designated revenue payer to the State
    Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
    a) 1 and 2 only
    b) 2 and 3 only

c) 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

39. Banjaras during the medieval period of Indian history were generally: [2016]

    a) Agriculturists

    b) Warriors

    c) Weavers

    d) Traders

40. With reference to the economic history of medieval India, the term Araghatta refers to: [2016]

    a) Bonded labour

    b) Land grants made to military officers

    c) Waterwheel used in the irrigation of land

    d) Wasteland and converted to cultivated land

41. With reference to Indian history, which of the following is/are the essential elementary elements of the feudal system? [2015]

    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

42. Consider the following pairs: [2015]

    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

43. In Medieval India, the designations 'Mahattara' and 'Pattakila' were used for: [2014]

    a) Military officers

    b) Village officers

    c) Specialists in Vedic rituals

    d) Chiefs of craft guilds

44. The practice of military governorship was first introduced in India by the: [2000]

    a) Greeks

    b) Shakas

    c) Parthians

    d) Mughals

45. Fawazil in the Sultanate period meant [1998]

    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

46. Nastaliq was: [1996]

a) A Persian script used in medieval India

b) A raga composed by Tansen

c) A cess levied by the Mughal rulers

d) A manual of code of conduct for the Ulemas

FOREIGN INVASIONS AND BATTLES

47. With reference to 'Indian history, consider the following statements: [2022]

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

48. Consider the following statements: [2021]

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

49. What was the immediate reason for Ahmad Shah Abdali to invade India and fight the Third Battle of Panipat? [2010]

a) He wanted to avenge the expulsion by Marathas of his victory Timur Shah from Lahore.

b) The frustrated governor of Jullundhar Adina Beg Khan invited him to invade Punjab.

c) He wanted to punish Mughal administration for non-payment of the revenues.

d) He wanted to annex all the fertile plains of Punjab up to the borders of Delhi.

50. Consider the following statements: [2004]

1) In the Third Battle of Panipat, Ahmed Shah Abdali defeated Ibrahim Lodi.

2) Tipu Sultan was killed in the Third Anglo Mysore War.

3) Mir Jafar entered in a conspiracy with the English for the defeat of Nawab Siraj-ud daulah in the Battle of Plassey.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1, 2 and 3

b) 3 only

c) 2 and 3

d) None

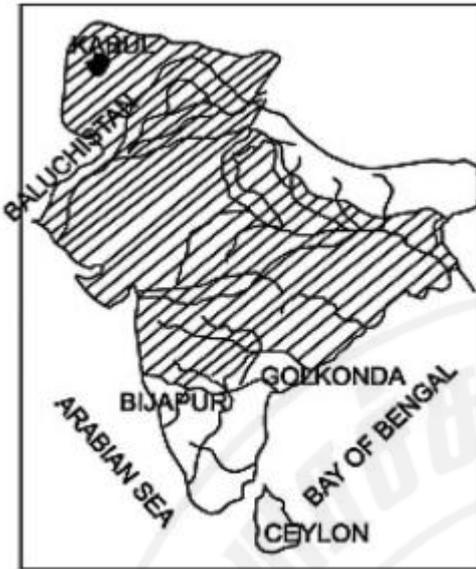51. The Mongols under Gengis Khan invaded India during the reign of: [2001]
    a) Balban
    b) Feroze Tughlaq
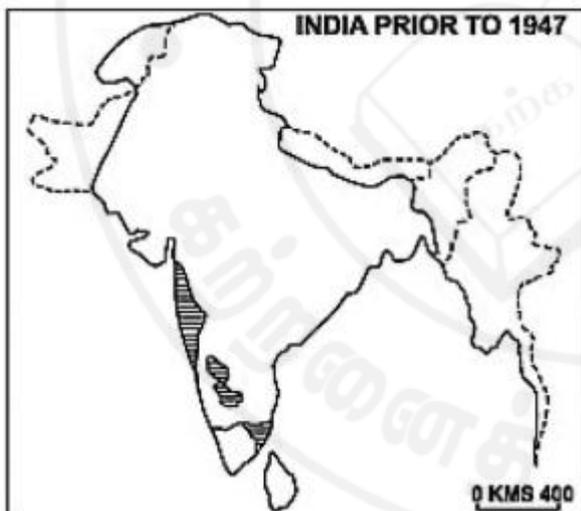   c) Iltutmish
    d) Muhammad bin Tughlaq

MAPS AND MILITARY ROUTES

52. The shaded area in the given map shows the empire of: [2001]

    a) Alauddin Khilji
    b) Mohammad Tughlaq
    c) Shah Jahan
    d) Aurangzeb

53. The given map refers to the kingdom of [2000]

    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
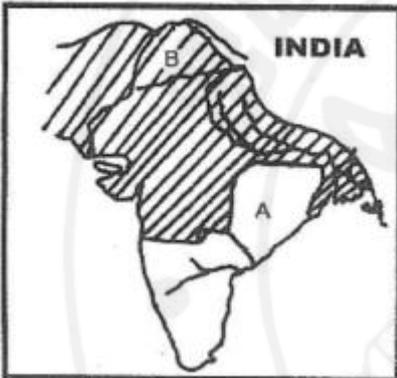
54. To which Lodi Sultan does the given map relate and what town does the site marked A on the map represent? [1999]

a) Bahlol Lodi, Jaunpur

b) Sikandar Lodi, Aligarh

c) Ibrahim Lodi, Jaunpur

d) Ibrahim Lodi, Aligarh

55. 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? [1998]

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

56. Consider the, map given below: [1995]

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

MEDIEVAL ART, ARCHITECTURE,
LITERATURE, RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

Monuments | Literature | Music | Paintings | Bhakti | Sufism | Sikhism
30 PYQs | 1995–2022 | 8 Themes | 45+ Micro-Topics

OVERVIEW: MEDIEVAL ART, LIT., RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY (1995–2022)

Theme	PYQs	Year Range	Priority
Architecture & Monument Chronology	5	1995–2019	HIGH
Literature, Languages & Translations	5	1997–2022	HIGH
Music & Performing Arts	2	2003 & 2019	MEDIUM
Mughal Paintings	2	1996 & 2019	MEDIUM
Society & Cultural-Intellectual History	4	1997–2021	HIGH ↑
Bhakti Movement	6	2002–2019	VERY HIGH
Sufi Movement	3	1997–2012	HIGH
Sikhism & Decline of Buddhism	3	1996–2010	MEDIUM

KEY INSIGHT: Domain Pattern

– BHAKTI SAINTS dominate (6 Qs, 20%): Saint-Period-Ruler contemporaneity is the CORE testing format
– CHRONOLOGICAL AWARENESS is tested everywhere: monument building order, saint lifetimes, ruler reigns
– Mughal cultural contributions (painting, literature, architecture) are tested as INTEGRATED cultural history
– Sufi questions test PRACTICES + ORDER IDENTIFICATION, not just saint names

- Vijayanagara society (2021 Nuniz reference) shows UPSC testing FOREIGN TRAVELLER OBSERVATIONS about culture
- Post-2016 shift: STATEMENT-BASED format replacing direct identification; more 'is/are correct' patterns
- This domain has LOWER volume than political history but HIGHER difficulty per question

Main Theme	Sub-Themes
1. Architecture & Monument Chronology	– Dynasty-specific features (e.g., Vijayanagara Mandapas) – Material identification (Red Sandstone vs. Brick/Lime) – Syncretic regional styles (Buddhist-Persian fusion) – Chronological ordering of monuments (Sultanate → Mughal) – Evolution of domes and regional architecture (Deccan, Lucknow, Bengal)
2. Literature, Languages & Translations	– Translation projects (Sanskrit to Persian under Mughal patronage) – Court historians and their specific identities/works – Historiographical reasoning (Why writers critiqued rulers) – Development of regional poetry (Early Urdu/Amir Khusrau) – Medieval writers' awareness of global events
3. Music & Performing Arts	– Origins of musical titles and royal patronage – Specific musical genres and innovations (Dhrupad, Qawwali, Khayal) – Syncretic rulers and their songs/compositions – Musical instruments and attributions (Sitar, etc.)
4. Mughal Paintings	– Evolution from illustrated manuscripts to albums/portraits – Style transitions (Quantity/Karkhanas vs. Quality/Naturalism) – Impact of European influence on Mughal art – Identifying the "Zenith" periods of artistic development
5. Society & Cultural-Intellectual History	– Foreign traveler observations on social customs (e.g., Gender history) – Purpose and function of intellectual forums (e.g., Ibadat Khana) – Historiographical perspectives (Critical commentary on rulers) – Physical/ethnic descriptions of medieval populations
6. Bhakti Movement	– Saint-Period-Ruler contemporaneity (Timeline mapping) – South Indian reform movements (Siddhas, Lingayats, Alvars, Nayanars) – Philosophical distinctions (Saguna vs. Nirguna) – Saint-Profession-Region mapping – Identification of first-time linguistic/social innovations
7. Sufi Movement	– Sufi practices and yogic parallels (Meditation, breath control) – Identification and chronology of Silsilas (Chishti, Naqshbandi, Qadiri) – Relationships between saints, disciples, and the state – Geographical origins of Sufi orders
8. Sikhism & Decline of Buddhism	– Chronology and specific contributions of the 10 Sikh Gurus – Institutional developments (Khalsa, Manji system, Guru Granth Sahib) – Factors leading to the decline of Buddhism (Absorption vs. Persecution) – Interaction between ruling dynasties and religious decline

IYACHAMY ACADEMY

Most Asked Micro-Topics

- Bhakti saint contemporaneity: who lived when, under which ruler (6 Qs — #1)
- Medieval literature: author-work-ruler matching (5 Qs)
- Monument material/features/chronology (5 Qs)
- Sufi orders, practices, saint-ruler pairing (3 Qs)
- Mughal painting evolution: Akbar vs Jahangir (2 Qs — same answer twice)

Under-Asked but RISING

- Vijayanagara cultural/social history: Nuniz observations (2021 entry) — foreign traveller format
- Mughal translation projects: Yogavasistha (2022 entry) — Sanskrit→Persian patronage
- South Indian reform movements: Siddhas, Lingayats (2016 entry) — beyond North-centric Bhakti
- Deccan cultural contributions: Ibrahim Adil Shah II, Bijapur architecture

Concept Clusters

- CLUSTER 1: Bhakti Saint Timeline — birth-death dates mapped against ruling dynasties
- CLUSTER 2: Medieval Architecture Evolution — Sultanate → Mughal → Regional (material + style)
- CLUSTER 3: Sufi-Bhakti Interaction — shared practices, distinct philosophies, ruler patronage
- CLUSTER 4: Mughal Cultural Patronage — painting, translation, architecture as integrated system
- CLUSTER 5: Sikh Guru Contributions — 10 Gurus, each with specific contribution

HOW UPSC THINKS

Why UPSC Frames Such Questions

- BHAKTI-SUFI questions test India's COMPOSITE CULTURAL HERITAGE — a constitutional value that UPSC deeply prioritises
- Saint CONTEMPORANEITY testing reveals UPSC's core philosophy: historical figures must be PRECISELY placed on the timeline, not vaguely known
- Mughal CULTURAL patronage (translations, painting, architecture) is tested to assess whether aspirants see beyond military/political history
- The Nagarjuna-as-Bhakti-saint trap tests CATEGORICAL CLARITY: can aspirants cleanly separate Buddhist/Bhakti/Sufi traditions?
- Monument MATERIAL questions (red sandstone vs marble vs brick) test VISUAL KNOWLEDGE of India's architectural heritage
- Foreign traveller observations about SOCIETY (Nuniz on women) represent UPSC's interest in SOCIAL HISTORY over political events
- Historiographical questions (Barani's critique) test whether aspirants understand HOW history is written, not just what happened
- Jahangir = painting zenith tested TWICE shows UPSC's confidence in this as an ANCHOR FACT
- Sufi PRACTICES (breath control, meditation) tests cultural PROCESS knowledge, not just saint names

- Sikh Guru-Contribution matching tests SYSTEMATIC KNOWLEDGE of an important religious tradition

The Hidden Syllabus

- TIMELINE MASTERY: Every Bhakti/Sufi saint must be mapped to a century AND a contemporaneous ruler
- CULTURAL SYNTHESIS: UPSC values examples of Hindu-Muslim cultural interaction (Khusrau, Ibrahim Adil Shah II, Akbar's translations)
- SOUTH INDIAN REFORM: Siddhas, Lingayats, Alvars, Nayanars are NOT supplementary — they're CORE
- ARCHITECTURAL LITERACY: Knowing WHAT a building is made of, WHEN it was built, and WHO built it forms a triple test
- HISTORIOGRAPHY: How did medieval writers (Barani, Badauni, Abul Fazl) VIEW their times? This meta-level is increasingly tested

Top Conceptual Traps

- Nimbarka = 12th century (NOT Akbar's contemporary) — 400-year gap
- Kabir (15th c) could NOT be influenced by Sirhindi (17th c) — Sirhindi came LATER
- Nagarjuna = BUDDHIST philosopher (NOT Bhakti saint)
- Tansen's title = given by Gwalior rulers BEFORE Akbar
- Chisti = village in AFGHANISTAN (NOT Ajmer)
- Sirhindi = JAHANGIR contemporary (NOT Ibrahim Lodi) — 500-year gap
- Buland Darwaza = predominantly RED SANDSTONE (not white marble)
- Bara Imambara = BRICK AND LIME (not sandstone/marble)
- Gurumukhi script = GURU ANGAD (NOT Guru Arjan Dev)
- Banda Bahadur = appointed by GURU GOBIND SINGH (NOT Tegh Bahadur)
- Guptas PATRONISED Buddhism (NOT opposed to it)
- Aurangzeb was NOT contemporary of Salim Chisti (= Akbar's era)
- Ramananda = FIRST to use Hindi for Bhakti (NOT Kabir)

REVISION BLUEPRINT

Priority	Micro-Topic	Source	Freq
1	Bhakti saints: timeline + ruler contemporaneity	NCERT 12 + Nitin Singhania	6 Qs
2	Medieval monument: material, features, chronology	Nitin Singhania + NCERT	5 Qs
3	Medieval literature: author-work-ruler	Satish Chandra + Nitin Singhania	5 Qs

4	Sufi orders: saints, practices, ruler mapping	NCERT 12 + Satish Chandra	3 Qs
5	Sikh Gurus: 10 Gurus + contributions	NCERT 12 + Nitin Singhania	3 Qs
6	Mughal painting: Akbar vs Jahangir evolution	Nitin Singhania + CCRT	2 Qs
7	Vijayanagara social/cultural history	TN Board + NCERT	2 Qs (↑)
8	South Indian reform: Siddhas, Lingayats	NCERT + TN Board	1 Q (↑)
9	Buddhism decline factors	NCERT Class 12	1 Q
10	Mughal translation patronage	Satish Chandra + current affairs	1 Q (↑)

Source Linkage

- – PRIMARY: Nitin Singhania — Indian Art & Culture (Bhakti, Sufi, Architecture, Painting chapters)
- – Satish Chandra — History of Medieval India (literature, cultural patronage, society)
- – NCERT Class 7: Our Pasts II (Bhakti-Sufi, architecture, Mughal court)
- – NCERT Class 12: Themes in Indian History II (Bhakti-Sufi traditions, Mughal court)
- – TN Board Class 11: History (Vijayanagara society, South Indian reform movements)
- – Self-prepared: BHAKTI SAINT MASTER TIMELINE with birth-death-patron-region-tradition

HIGH PROBABILITY for 2026 Prelims

- – Bhakti saint contemporaneity: expect NEW saint-ruler pairings — prepare 20+ saints on timeline
- – Mughal translation projects: Razmnama (Mahabharata), Ramayana, Atharva Veda — Akbar's patronage
- – Sufi order comparison: Chishti vs Suhrawardi vs Naqshbandi — practices & attitudes toward state
- – Deccan cultural contributions: Bijapur, Golconda, Bidar architecture + Ibrahim Adil Shah II
- – South Indian Bhakti: Alvars (12), Nayanars (63) — specific saints and contributions
- – Medieval architectural material: which building uses what — Sultanate vs Mughal vs Regional
- – Sikh Guru contributions: systematic table of all 10 Gurus
- – Akbar's religious experiments: Din-i-Ilahi, Sulh-i-Kul, Ibadat Khana — as PROCESS not just events
- – Medieval music: Dhrupad → Khayal evolution, Tansen's specific ragas
- – Historiography: Barani, Badauni, Abul Fazl, Lahori — who wrote what and their perspective

ARCHITECTURE AND CHRONOLOGY OF MONUMENTS

1. Building Kalyaana Mandapas was a notable feature in the temple construction in the kingdom of: [2019]
   a) Chalukya
   b) Chandela
   c) Rashtrakuta
   d) Vijayanagara

2. With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements: [2018]
   1) White marble was used in making Buland Darwaza and Khankah at Fatehpur Sikri.
   2) Red Sandstone and marble were used in making Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza in Lucknow.
   Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. Consider the following statements: The striking feature of the Jama Masjid in Kashmir completed by Zain-ul-Abidin include(s): [1999]
   I. Turret.
   II. Similarity with Buddhist pagodas.
   III. Persian style.
   Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) I alone
   b) I, II and III
   c) II and III
   d) I and III

4. Consider the following: [1998]
   I. Tughlaquabad 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

5. Which one of the following monuments has a dome which is said to be one of the largest in the world? [1995]
   a) Tomb of Sher Shah, Sasaram
   b) Jama Masjid, Delhi
   c) Tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, Delhi
   d) Gol Gumbaz, Bijapur

LITERATURE, LANGUAGES, AND TRANSLATIONS

6. "Yogavasistha" was translated into Persian by Nizamuddin Panipati during the reign of: [2022]
   a) Akbar
   b) Humayun

c) Shahjahan

d) Aurangzeb

7. In Indian history, who was Abdul Hamid Lahori? [2006]

   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

8. The historian Barani refused to consider the state in India under Delhi Sultans as truly Islamic because: [2002]

   a) The majority of the population did not follow Islam

   b) The Muslims theologists were often disregarded

   c) The Sultan supplemented the Muslim law by framing his own regulations

   d) Religious freedom was accorded to non-Muslims

9. The first writer to use Urdu as the medium of poetic expression was [1999]

   a) Amir Khusru

   b) Mirza Ghalib

   c) Bahadur Shah Zafar

   d) Faiz

10. The medieval Indian writer who refers to the discovery of America is [1997]

    a) Malik Muhammad Jayasi

    b) Amir Khusrau

    c) Raskhan

    d) Abul Fazl

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

11. With reference to Mian Tansen, which one of the following statements is not correct? [2019]

    a) Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar.

    b) Tansen composed Dhrupads on Hindu gods and goddesses.

    c) Tansen composed songs for his patrons.

    d) Tansen invented many Ragas.

12. Consider the following statement: [2003]

    1) Kitab I Nauras, a collection of songs in praise of Hindu deities and Muslim saints, was written by Ibrahim Adil Shah II.

    2) Amir Khusrau was the originator in India of the early form of the musical style known as Qawwali.

    Which of these statements is/are correct?

    a) Only 1

    b) Only 2

    c) Both 1 and 2

    d) Neither 1 nor 2

MUGHAL PAINTINGS

13. Who among the following Mughal Emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to album and individual portrait? [2019]

    a) Humayun

    b) Akbar

    c) Jahangir

    d) Shah Jahan

14. Mughal painting reached its zenith under [1996]
    a) Humayun
    b) Akbar
    c) Jahangir
    d) Shahjahan

SOCIETY AND CULTURAL INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

15. According to Portuguese writer Nuniz, the women in Vijayanagara Empire were expert in which of the following areas? [2021]
    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

16. Ibadat Khana at Fatehpur Sikri was: [2014]
    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 in different religions gathered to discuss religious affairs.

17. 'The king was freed from his people and they from their king'. On whose death did Badauni comment thus? [1999]
    a) Balban
    b) Alauddin Khalji
    c) Muhammad-bin-Tughlak
    d) Feroze Shah Tughlak

18. '.........They are people of yellow complexion, oblique eyes, high cheek bones, sparse hair and medium height.' The reference here is to: [1997]
    a) Nordic Aryans
    b) Austrics
    c) Negroids
    d) Mongoloids

BHAKTI MOVEMENT (SAINTS, PHILOSOPHY, AND REFORM)

19. Consider the following statements: [2019]
    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

20. With reference to the cultural history of medieval India, consider the following statements: [2016]
    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

21. Consider the following Bhakti saints: [2013]

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

22. Among the following, who was not a proponent of bhakti cult? [2010]

a) Nagarjuna

b) Tukaram

c) Tyagraja

d) Vallabhacharya

23. Bhakta Tukaram was a contemporary of which Mughal Emperor? [2006]

a) Babar

b) Akbar

c) Jahangir

d) Aurangzeb

24. Who among the following was the first Bhakti saint to use Hindi for the propagation of his message? [2002]

a) Dadu

b) Kabir

c) Ramananda

d) Tulsidas

SUFI MOVEMENT (ORDERS, PRACTICES, AND SAINTS)

25. With reference to the religious history of medieval India, the Sufi mystics were known to pursue which of the following practices? [2012]

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 & 2 Only

b) 2 & 3 Only

c) 3 Only

d) 1, 2 & 3

26. With reference to Sufism in Indian history, consider the following statements: [2002]

1) Shaikh Ahmad Sarhandi was a contemporary of Ibrahim Lodi

2) Shiakh 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

27. Assertion (A): The sponsor and the most prominent figure of the Chisti order of Sufis in India is Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti. [1997]

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

SIKHISM AND THE SIKH GURUS

28. Consider the following statements about Sikh Gurus: [2004]

1) Banda Bahadur was appointed as the military leader of the Sikhs by Guru Tegh Bahadur.

2) Guru Arjan Dev became the Sikh Guru after Guru Ram Das.

3) Guru Arjan Dev gave to Sikhs their own script Gurumukhi.

Which one of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2 and 3

c) 1 and 3

d) 1 and 2

29. Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched? [1996]

a) Guru Amar Das — Miri and Piri

b) Guru Arjan Dev — Adi Granth

c) Guru Ram Das — Dal Khalsa

d) Guru Gobind Singh — Manji

DECLINE OF BUDDHISM

30. Why did Buddhism start declining in India in the early mediaeval times? [2010]

1) Buddha was by that time considered as one of the incarnations of Vishnu and thus became a part of Vaishnavism.

2) The invading tribes from Central Asia till the time of last Gupta king adopted Hinduism and persecuted Buddhists.

3) The Kings of Gupta dynasty were strongly opposed to Buddhism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 1 and 3 only

c) 2 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3