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FREE SAMPLE

PRELIMS 2027 EDITION

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES PRELIMS · SUMMARY AND FACTS

Medieval Indian History

Prelims Summary and Facts: built backwards from every medieval-history Prelims question from 1995 to 2026. Exam-style facts, tables for every set, a PYQ Radar in every chapter, Fact and Trap boxes and rapid-revision tables.

Compiled by Arvind KrS

158	16	201	139	73	665
PRELIMS PYQS 1995–2026	CHAPTERS	PAGES	FACT TABLES	FACT AND TRAP BOXES	RAPID-REVISION ROWS

FROM SIND TO PANIPAT: C. 712–1761

712	1192	1206	1336	1526	1556	1674	1707	1761
Arabs conquer Sind	Second battle of Tarain	Delhi Sultanate begins	Vijayanagara founded	First battle of Panipat	Akbar's accession	Shivaji crowned	Aurangzeb dies	Third battle of Panipat



IN THIS BOOK

I How UPSC Asks

II Early Medieval India

III The Sultanate Age

IV The Mughals

V Marathas and Religious Movements

VI Rapid Revision

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Updated to November 2026

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Medieval Indian History: Prelims Summary and Facts

Fact notes for the UPSC Civil Services Preliminary Examination, built on the Prelims PYQs 1995–2026

Prelims 2027 Edition · Compiled November 2026 · Compiled by Arvind KrS

Free sample. This sample carries the cover, the full contents and three complete chapters of the book. You may share this sample as it is, without changes.

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Cover artwork: original illustration created for this book. Previous year questions are reproduced in the wording of the UPSC question papers. Answers for 2011–2025 follow UPSC's official keys; 2026 answers follow UPSC's provisional key; answers for 1995–2010 are the agreed answers, checked against the facts.

Questions or corrections: support@lotusarise.com

Contents

PART I **How UPSC Asks** 4

01 How UPSC Asks Medieval History: PYQ Analysis 1995–2026 IN THIS SAMPLE 4

PART II **Early Medieval India** 12

02 Early Medieval North India: Kannauj, Palas, Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas and Rajputs 12

03 The Cholas and the Tamil South 28

04 The Deccan Kingdoms: Chalukyas, Hoysalas, Yadavas, Kakatiyas and Kadambas 38

05 Arabs, Ghaznavids and Ghurids 50

06 Society, Economy and Religion, 8th to 15th Century 57

PART III **The Sultanate Age** 66

07 The Delhi Sultanate: Dynasties and Rulers 66

08 Sultanate Administration, Economy and Culture 81

09 Regional Kingdoms of the Sultanate Age 92

10 Vijayanagara, the Bahmanis and the Deccan Sultanates 100

PART IV **The Mughals** 115

11 The Mughal Empire: Babur to Aurangzeb, with the Surs IN THIS SAMPLE 115

12 Later Mughals and the Rise of Regional Powers 137

13 Mughal Administration, Economy and Culture 143

PART V **Marathas and Religious Movements** 153

14 The Marathas 153

15 Bhakti, Sufi and Sikh Movements IN THIS SAMPLE 162

PART VI **Rapid Revision** 178

16 Rapid Revision Tables 178

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MEDIEVAL HISTORY PRELIMS SUMMARY

PYQS 1995–2026

01

How UPSC Asks Medieval History: PYQ Analysis 1995–2026

This book is built backwards from the question paper. Every Prelims paper from 1995 to 2026 was read for questions on India between about 750 CE and the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761, including the art, literature and religion of those centuries and the European trading companies of the Mughal age. Each of the 158 questions found was placed in the chapter of this book that answers it. The counts decided how much space each chapter gets, the recurring themes decided which facts come first, and the traps UPSC has already set decided the Prelims Trap boxes.

The answers for 2012–2025 follow UPSC's official answer keys, which the Commission publishes after the final result of each year's examination (the 2011 paper had no medieval question). For 1995–2010, when no official key was published, the answers are the ones on which solved versions of the papers agree, checked against the facts; for the two old questions where those versions still disagree, the answer given is the one the facts best support. The 2026 answers follow UPSC's provisional key, released within days of that year's exam, and are marked so at the end of each chapter.

SYLLABUS

PRELIMS — History of India and Indian National Movement

MAINS · GS PAPER I — Indian culture: salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture

CONTENTS

01 Where the Questions Come From
02 How Many Questions Each Year
03 How the Questions Have Changed
04 Themes UPSC Keeps Returning To
05 How This Book Is Organised

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01 Where the Questions Come From

The Mughal Empire chapter carries 36 questions, about 23% of the total and nearly twice as many as the next chapter (19). Four chapters (the Mughals, the Bhakti, Sufi and Sikh movements, the Delhi Sultanate and Vijayanagara) account for 91 questions, or 58%.

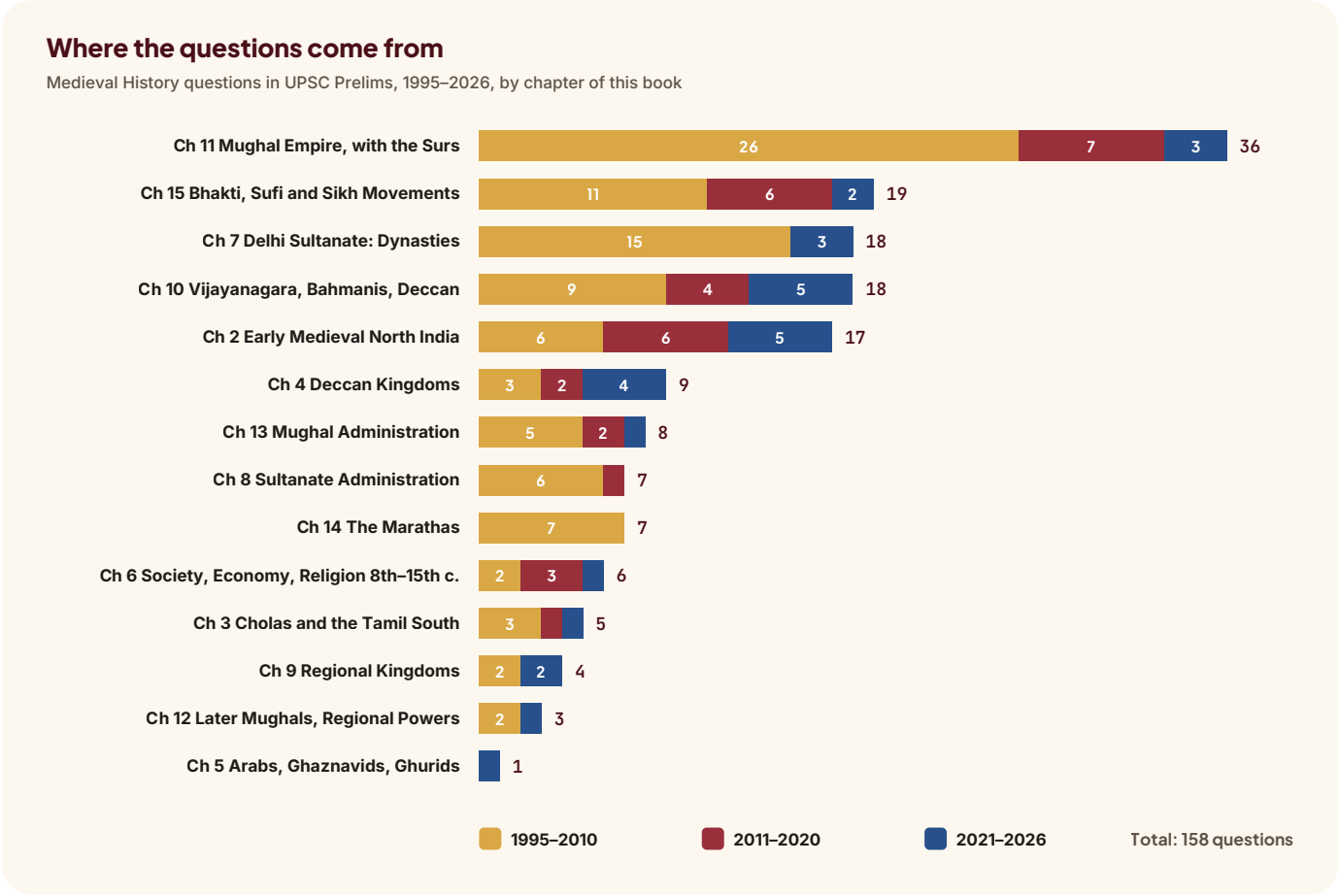


Fig. 1.1 Medieval History questions in UPSC Prelims, 1995–2026, by chapter of this book, split into three periods.

CHAPTER OF THIS BOOK	1995–2010	2011–2020	2021–2026	TOTAL	SHARE
11. The Mughal Empire: Babur to Aurangzeb, with the Surs	26	7	3	**36**	23%
15. Bhakti, Sufi and Sikh Movements	11	6	2	**19**	12%
7. The Delhi Sultanate: Dynasties and Rulers	15	0	3	**18**	11%
10. Vijayanagara, the Bahmanis and the Deccan Sultanates	9	4	5	**18**	11%
2. Early Medieval North India	6	6	5	**17**	11%
4. The Deccan Kingdoms	3	2	4	**9**	6%

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CHAPTER OF THIS BOOK	1995–2010	2011–2020	2021–2026	TOTAL	SHARE
13. Mughal Administration, Economy and Culture	5	2	1	**8**	5%
8. Sultanate Administration, Economy and Culture	6	1	0	**7**	4%
14. The Marathas	7	0	0	**7**	4%
6. Society, Economy and Religion, 8th to 15th Century	2	3	1	**6**	4%
3. The Cholas and the Tamil South	3	1	1	**5**	3%
9. Regional Kingdoms of the Sultanate Age	2	0	2	**4**	3%
12. Later Mughals and Regional Powers	2	0	1	**3**	2%
5. Arabs, Ghaznavids and Ghurids	0	0	1	**1**	1%
All chapters	**97**	**32**	**29**	**158**	100%

PYQ RADAR WHAT THE COUNTS MEAN FOR YOUR REVISION

- Revise Chapters 11, 15, 7 and 10 first and most often: together they carry 91 of the 158 questions.
- Since 2011 the weight has moved. Early Medieval North India (Chapter 2) has 11 questions, the Mughal Empire 10, Vijayanagara and the Deccan Sultanates 9, and the Deccan Kingdoms 6 (four of them in 2021–2026: the Mitakshara, the dates of the Hoysalas, Gahadavalas, Kakatiyas and Yadavas, the Hoysala temples on the World Heritage List and Nagara shikharas at Aihole).
- The Delhi Sultanate set 15 questions up to 2010 and none in 2011–2020, then returned with the Mongol invasions (2021, 2022) and the Sayyids (2022).
- All seven Maratha questions date from 1995–2010. Learn the Ashtapradhan and the Peshwas, but give this chapter less time than its count suggests.
- Small chapters still matter: the seven chapters with seven questions or fewer together carry 33, about a fifth of the total.

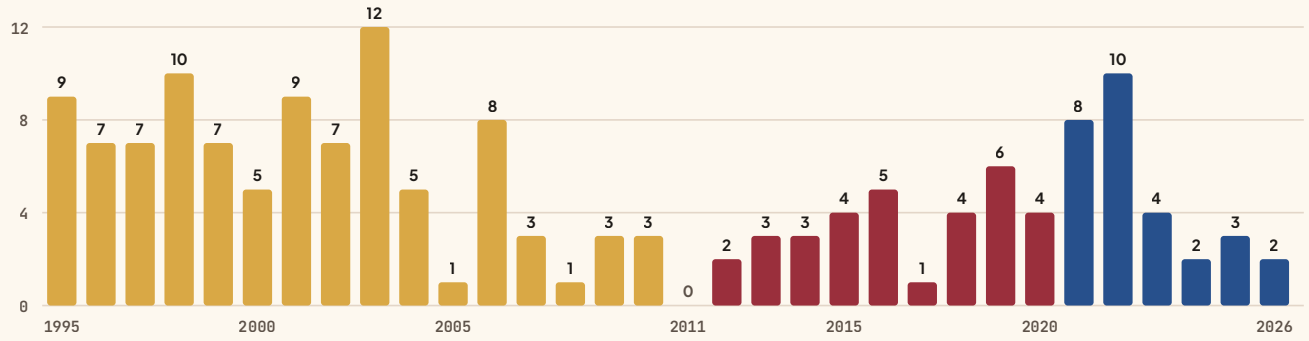
02 How Many Questions Each Year

The paper had 150 questions until 2010 and has had 100 since 2011. Medieval history averaged about six questions a paper before 2011 and about four since, so its share of the paper has stayed close to 4% throughout. The peaks were 2003 (12 questions), 1998 and 2022 (10 each); the 2011 paper set none at all. After a thin decade (32 questions in 2011–2020), the six papers of 2021–2026 set 29, though the last four have set only two to four each.

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How many questions each year

Medieval History questions per Prelims paper, 1995–2026



The paper had 150 questions until 2010 and has had 100 since 2011. The 2011 paper had no medieval question.

Fig. 1.2 Medieval History questions in each Prelims paper from 1995 to 2026.

03 How the Questions Have Changed

The format

The facts asked have changed less than the way they are asked. A student who knows the facts but not the formats still loses marks to elimination traps.

How the questions are framed

Share of each question format in three periods (number of questions in each segment)

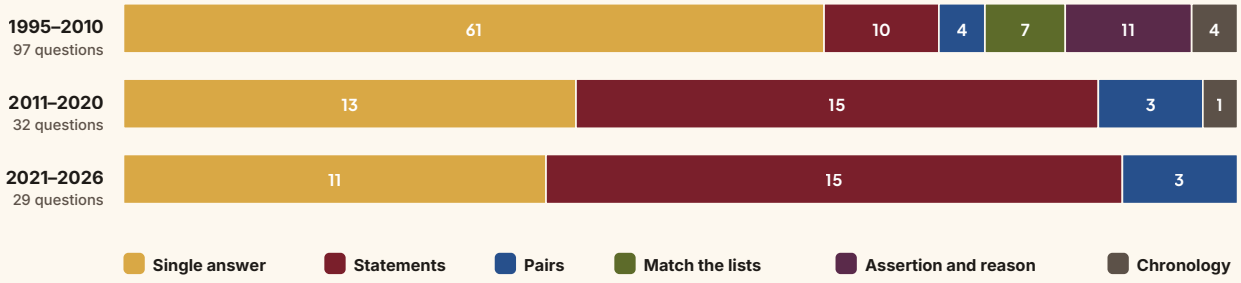


Fig. 1.3 Question formats in medieval history questions, 1995–2010, 2011–2020 and 2021–2026.

PERIOD	TYPICAL FORMAT	EXAMPLE
1995–2010	One-line recall (61 of 97 questions); match the lists; assertion and reason; chronology	"Fawazil in the Sultanate period meant" (1998); Iqta, Jagir, Amaram and Mokasa matched with the Delhi Sultans, Mughals, Vijayanagara and Marathas (2000); Namdev, Kabir, Ravidas and Sena matched with their trades (2001)
2011–2021	Two to four statements, "which is/are correct?"; pairs with codes	Siddhas and Lingayats (2016); Eripatti, Taniyurs and Ghatikas (2016); the difference between jagirdar and zamindar (2019)

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PERIOD	TYPICAL FORMAT	EXAMPLE
2022–2025	"How many of the above are correct?", which defeats elimination	Nannuka, Jayashakti, Nagabhata II and Bhoja with their dynasties (2022); dynasties founded in the early eighth century (2023); fruits brought by the Portuguese (2025)
2022–2026	A news item as the hook, then a history question	Circuit House at Somnath (2022); the seated statue of Ramanuja at Hyderabad (2022); Hoysala temples on the World Heritage List (2024); the Ahom Moidams (2026)

- Match-the-list and assertion-and-reason questions (18 before 2011) have not appeared since 2011. Statement questions rose from 10 of 97 before 2011 to 30 of 61 since, about half of all medieval questions.
- "How many" questions give no credit for partial knowledge: with four pairs, one wrong judgement makes the whole answer wrong. Facts that come in sets (kings and dynasties, texts and authors, temples and states) are therefore given in tables in every chapter.
- A heritage listing or an inauguration in the news is often the cue. When a medieval monument is in the news in the year before the exam, revise its builder, dynasty, style and state.

The subject

The subjects have shifted too. Questions on rulers and wars made up 38% of the paper's medieval questions before 2011 and only 20% since. Art, architecture, music and literature have become the largest group: 18 of the 61 questions since 2011, and 10 of 29 in 2021–2026. The Mughal chapter shows the same change: of its ten questions since 2011, five are on painting, music, architecture or translation, three on the Europeans and travellers, and one (2015) on Babur's conquest.

WHAT THE QUESTION IS ABOUT	1995–2010	2011–2020	2021–2026	TOTAL
Rulers, dynasties and wars	37 (38%)	5 (16%)	7 (24%)	**49**
Art, architecture, music and literature	23 (24%)	8 (25%)	10 (34%)	**41**
Administration and economy	14 (14%)	11 (34%)	4 (14%)	**29**
Religion: Bhakti, Sufi, Sikh and sects	13 (13%)	7 (22%)	2 (7%)	**22**
Europeans and foreign travellers	10 (10%)	1 (3%)	6 (21%)	**17**
All questions	**97**	**32**	**29**	**158**

04 Themes UPSC Keeps Returning To

Some topics come back every few years, and a question can belong to more than one theme. The counts below are questions, 1995–2026.

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THEME	QUESTIONS	WHAT IS ASKED	CHAPTER
Mughal emperors and court culture	23	Khanua and Panipat; Alam Khan and the invitation to Babur; the Balkh campaign and Qandahar; Dharmat; Abul Fazl and Abdul Hamid Lahori; painting under Jahangir; Tansen; the Ibadat Khana; Persian translations	11
Delhi Sultans and their reigns	18	Balban's title; Aibak's death; Muhammad bin Tughlaq (3 questions: Swargadwari, token currency, Badauni's verdict); Firuz's canals; the Lodis; the Mongols (3); the Sayyids	7
Vijayanagara	14	Harihara I and the founding; Saluva, Tuluva and Aravidu rulers; Hampi temples and kalyana mandapas; Lepakshi murals; Krishnadeva Raya's taxes; Deva Raya I's dam; the fanam; Nuniz; the Portuguese at Bhatkal	10
Europeans in India	14	The first permanent English factory (Surat, 1613, under Jahangir); the first English fort; the Dutch at Pulicat and Kochi; Goa in 1510; Diu; the Portuguese at Hugli; New World fruits	9, 10, 11
Temples and sculpture	14	Eight on southern and Deccan dynasties (Chola Nataraja bronzes, Belur and Halebid, Hampi, Lepakshi, Nagara shikharas at Aihole); also Khajuraho, Lingaraja and the Chausath Yogini temple at Morena	2, 3, 4, 9, 10
Bhakti saints and acharyas	13	The saints' trades; the Bijak; Pushti Marg; Ramananda's use of Hindi; Ramanuja's teaching; Siddhas and Lingayats; Tyagaraja and Annamacharya; who was contemporary with whom	15
Texts, authors and languages	12	Regional Mahabharatas; Mitakshara and Dayabhaga; Bhavabhuti and other playwrights; Jaina texts; Devichandraguptam; apabhramsa; Mughal historians	2, 4, 6, 7, 11
Sultanate and Mughal administration	14	Iqta and fawazil; the Diwan-i-Bandagan; the amil; mansabdari and the das-bisti rule; Mir Bakshi; ahadis; jagirdar and zamindar; pargana, sarkar and suba	8, 13
Sufis and Sikh Gurus	6	Muin-ud-din Chishti and sama; Chisht near Herat; Nasiruddin Chiragh-i-Dehli; the Qadiri order; Sufi practices; Guru Arjan and the Adi Granth	15
Foreign travellers and writers	5	Roe, Hawkins, Tavernier and Manucci with their emperors; Ibn Battuta on the dinar; Tavernier on diamonds; Nuniz on women at court; Al-Biruni on Somnath	5, 7, 10, 11
Music	5	Amir Khusrau and the khayal and qawwali; the Kitab-i-Nauras; Dhrupad; Tansen; Tyagaraja's kritis	7, 10, 11, 15

Several facts have been asked twice or more, often years apart.

FACT ASKED AGAIN	YEARS
The English East India Company's first permanent factory, at Surat, came under Jahangir's farman of 1613	2006, 2008, 2009
Chengiz Khan reached the Indus in 1221, under Iltutmish: the first Mongol threat	2001, 2021, 2022

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FACT ASKED AGAIN	YEARS
Amir Khusrau: Hindavi verse, the khayal, the qawwali	1999 (twice), 2003
Firuz Tughlaq set up the Diwan-i-Bandagan (department of slaves)	2001, 2002
Saluva Narasimha ended the Sangama dynasty	2003, 2004
Shah Jahan's Balkh campaign	1998, 2002
Mughal painting peaked under Jahangir, who turned to albums and portraits	1996, 2019
Ibrahim Adil Shah II of Bijapur, the 'Jagadguru' who wrote the Kitab-i-Nauras	2000, 2003
Mir Bakshi, a Mughal office	1997, 2019
Hoysala temples at Belur and Halebid	2001, 2024
Hampi temples (Vitthala, Virupaksha)	2007, 2009
Vijnanesvara's Mitakshara	1995, 2021
Devichandraguptam is by Visakhadatta	1997, 2023
The araghatta, the wheel with pots for lifting water	2016, 2025

◆ PRELIMS TRAP THE COMMONEST TRAPS IN MEDIEVAL HISTORY QUESTIONS

- **Right deed, wrong ruler:** Mir Bakshi placed under the Khaljis (2019); the Diwan-i-Arz credited to Alauddin and horse-branding to Balban (2002); Sir Thomas Roe paired with Akbar (1999); Banda Bahadur appointed by Guru Tegh Bahadur (2004); the title Tansen given by Akbar (2019).
- **Wrong contemporaries:** Nimbarka placed in Akbar's time and Kabir under the influence of Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi (2019); Annamacharya with Tyagaraja (2018); Vasco da Gama under Deva Raya II and Timur under Muhammad bin Tughlaq (2021); Aurangzeb with Shaikh Salim Chishti (2002).
- **False firsts and origins:** the first Mongol invasion placed under Jalaluddin Khalji (2022); Babur credited with bringing gunpowder and the arch and dome to India (2015); the iqta called an ancient Indian institution (2019).
- **Wrong author or school:** the Bijak given to Dadu and Pushti Marg to Madhva (2014); Devichandragupta given to Bilhana (2023); Aryadeva called a Jaina (2022); Bhoja placed among the Rashtrakutas (2022).
- **Wrong place:** Dwarasamudra put in Maharashtra and Sthanesvara in Uttar Pradesh (2020); Chisht placed in Ajmer (1997); Kuluta put in Malabar (2015).
- **"Only" and other absolutes:** the Chausath Yogini temple as "the only circular temple built in India" (2021); Kochi that "never became a part of the British colony" (2005).

05 How This Book Is Organised

The book has sixteen chapters. After this analysis, Chapters 2 to 14 follow the order of events, from the struggle for Kannauj in the eighth century to the Marathas and the Third Battle of Panipat; Chapter 15 brings the Bhakti, Sufi and Sikh movements together, since UPSC asks about them as one field; Chapter 16 gathers the sets that

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come up most (rulers, offices, taxes, texts, travellers, monuments) into Rapid Revision Tables for the last weeks before the exam.

Each chapter opens with a **PYQ Radar** showing what UPSC has asked from it and how often. The facts follow in short, exam-style sentences, with tables for anything that comes in sets, **Prelims Fact** boxes for details worth adding and **Prelims Trap** boxes for the confusions UPSC exploits. Each chapter closes with a quick revision panel and every Prelims question from 1995 to 2026 on its topics, with the answer and the reason.

Prelims Quick Revision

- **First pass**: Chapters 11, 15, 7 and 10, which carry 91 of the 158 questions asked from 1995 to 2026.
- **Sets**: learn every table whole; a “how many” question gives no marks for knowing three pairs out of four.
- **Traps**: check every statement for the right ruler, the right contemporary, the right place and absolute words such as “only” and “first”.
- **News**: when a medieval monument is in the news, revise its builder, dynasty, style and present state.
- **Last week**: Chapter 16’s Rapid Revision Tables and the PYQs at the end of each chapter.

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MEDIEVAL HISTORY PRELIMS SUMMARY

PYQS 1995–2026

11

The Mughal Empire: Babur to Aurangzeb, with the Surs

Babur's victory at Panipat in 1526 founded the Mughal empire, and his son Humayun lost it to Sher Shah Sur in 1540. The Surs ruled north India for fifteen years and left a revenue, coinage and road system that the Mughals kept. Humayun returned in 1555, and Akbar (1556–1605) turned the conquest into a lasting state, with the Rajput alliance, the mansab, the dahsala and sulh-i-kul. Jahangir and Shah Jahan ruled the empire at its height, and the English, Dutch and French companies opened factories on its coasts. Aurangzeb carried it to its widest extent and spent his last twenty-six years fighting in the Deccan.

SYLLABUS

PRELIMS — History of India and Indian National Movement

MAINS · GS PAPER I — Indian culture: salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture

CONTENTS

01 Babur (1526–1530)
02 Humayun (1530–1540, 1555–1556)
03 Sher Shah and the Surs (1540–1555)
04 Akbar (1556–1605)
05 Jahangir (1605–1627)
06 Shah Jahan (1628–1658)
07 Aurangzeb (1658–1707)
08 Battles of the Period
09 Europeans in Mughal India
10 Travellers and Europeans at the Mughal Court
11 Who Built What
12 Texts and Authors
13 Previous Year Questions

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PYQ RADAR 36 QUESTIONS, 1995–2026

- **Asked:** 1995 (twice), 1996 (twice), 1997, 1998 (four times), 1999, 2000, 2001 (twice), 2002, 2003 (five times), 2005, 2006 (twice), 2007 (twice), 2008, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2018 (twice), 2019 (twice), 2021, 2022, 2025.
- **Europeans and their trading posts** (11 questions): Portuguese piracy from Hugli, Goa's date and other firsts, the earliest Dutch factory, Dutch Kochi, the English at Surat in 1613 (three times), the first English fort, the last company to arrive, Broach, and the fruits the Portuguese brought.
- **Painting, music, script and buildings** (7): Jahangir and painting (twice), a school outside the Mughal line (Kalighat), nastaliq, dhrupad, Tansen, the stone of Buland Darwaza.
- **Akbar** (5): his empire on maps of 1601 and 1605, the march to Kabul in 1581, the Ibadat Khana, a dates match (1556, 1600, 1739). **Shah Jahan and the succession** (5): the Balkh campaign (twice), the loss of Qandahar, a map of his empire, Dharmat.
- **Travellers and historians** (5): Roe and the other Europeans at court, Tavernier on diamonds, Abul Fazl on America, Abdul Hamid Lahori, the Persian Yogavasistha. **Babur** (3): Khanua against Panipat, Alam Khan, what his arrival brought.
- **Pattern:** close to half the questions are on the European companies and the travellers, and most of the rest test one fact about a ruler: a date, a campaign's motive, a patron. Learn the Europeans and travellers tables and the ruler tables.

01 Babur (1526–1530)

BABUR	FACTS
Life	Born 14 February 1483 at Andijan (Ferghana); died 26 December 1530 at Agra; reburied at Bagh-e Babur, Kabul
Descent	Fifth in line from **Timur** on his father's side; from **Genghis Khan** through his mother; the dynasty called itself Timurid (Gurkani)
Before India	Ruler of Ferghana at eleven (1494); lost Samarqand to the Uzbek Shaibani Khan; took **Kabul** in 1504
Battles in India	Panipat (1526), Khanwa (1527), Chanderi (1528), Ghaghra (1529)
Titles	**Padshah** (taken at Kabul, 1507); **Ghazi** (after Khanwa)
Measures	Remitted the **tamgha** (a stamp duty) on Muslims and gave up wine on the eve of Khanwa; laid out charbagh gardens
Writing	**Baburnama** (Tuzuk-i-Baburi), in **Chaghatai Turkish**

- **Daulat Khan Lodi**, governor of Punjab, and **Alam Khan Lodi**, a son of Bahlul Lodi and so **Ibrahim Lodi's uncle**, a pretender to the Delhi throne, invited Babur to invade. Babur says that **Rana Sanga** of Mewar also sent him an envoy.
- Babur made his first expedition into India in 1519 (Bhera) and occupied **Lahore** in 1524.
- At the **First Battle of Panipat** (21 April 1526) Babur defeated and killed **Ibrahim Lodi**, using the **tulughma** (flank-and-rear attack) and the **araba** or "Rumi device" of carts chained together, with the Ottoman gunners **Ustad Ali Quli** and **Mustafa**.

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- At **Khanwa** (16 March 1527), near Fatehpur Sikri, Babur defeated the confederacy of **Rana Sanga**, which included Ibrahim's brother **Mahmud Lodi** and **Hasan Khan Mewati**; he declared the war a jihad and took the title Ghazi.
- Khanwa was the more decisive of his two great battles: Panipat ended the Lodis, and Khanwa broke the Rajput confederacy, the strongest power left in north India (asked in 2001).
- At **Chanderi** (1528) Babur took the fort of **Medini Rai**, and the Rajput women performed jauhar; at the **Ghaghra** (1529) he defeated the eastern Afghans under Mahmud Lodi and **Nusrat Shah** of Bengal.
- The **Baburnama** describes Hindustan's plants, animals and people, and names five Muslim powers (Delhi, Gujarat, Malwa, the Bahmanis, Bengal) and two non-Muslim ones, **Vijayanagara** and **Mewar**.
- **Guru Nanak** (1469–1539) was preaching when Babur overthrew the Lodis; his hymns on the invasion are known as the **Babarvani**.
- Babur built the **Kabuli Bagh mosque** at Panipat (1527) to mark his victory, and a mosque was raised at **Sambhal** in his name (1526); the **Aram Bagh** at Agra is traced to him.

◆ PRELIMS TRAP WHAT BABUR'S ARRIVAL BROUGHT

- **Gunpowder** was already known in India: the Bahmanis and the Gujarat sultans used firearms before 1526. Babur made field artillery decisive.
- The **true arch and dome** came with the Delhi Sultanate; the Alai Darwaza (1311) has an early true dome.
- What 1526 did found was the **Timurid (Mughal) dynasty** in India (asked in 2015).
- "Mughal" is the Indo-Persian form of "Mongol"; the dynasty is Timurid and has nothing to do with the Mongol raids of the Sultanate period.

02 Humayun (1530–1540, 1555–1556)

HUMAYUN	FACTS
Life	Born 1508 at Kabul; crowned at Agra in December 1530; died January 1556 after falling down the stairs of his library in Delhi's Purana Qila
Brothers	**Kamran** (Kabul and Kandahar), **Askari** (Sambhal), **Hindal** (Mewat)
Battles	Dadrah (1532, over the Afghans); Gujarat campaign (1535, took Mandu and Champaner); **Chausa** (1539) and **Kannauj** (1540) lost to Sher Khan; **Machhiwara** and **Sirhind** (1555) won against the Surs
Exile	About fifteen years (1540–1555): Sindh, then the Safavid court of **Shah Tahmasp I**; took Kandahar and Kabul in 1545
Building	Founded the city of **Din-panah** at Delhi (1533), on the site of Purana Qila
Culture	Brought the Persian painters **Mir Sayyid Ali** and **Abdus Samad** to India

- **Bahadur Shah** of Gujarat, of the Muzaffarid dynasty, was Humayun's chief rival in the west; under Mughal pressure he gave the Portuguese **Bassein** (1534) and a fort at **Diu** (1535), and was killed by them off Diu in 1537.
- At **Chausa** (June 1539), near Buxar, Sher Khan routed Humayun, who escaped across the Ganga with the help of a water-carrier, Nizam; Sher Khan then crowned himself **Sher Shah**.
- The **Battle of Kannauj**, also called the Battle of **Bilgram** (May 1540), drove Humayun out of India.

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- **Akbar** was born to **Hamida Banu Begum** at **Amarkot** (Umarkot, Sindh) on 15 October 1542, during Humayun's flight.
- At **Sirhind** (June 1555) Humayun defeated **Sikandar Shah Sur** and recovered Delhi and Agra; he died about six months later.

03 Sher Shah and the Surs (1540–1555)

SHER SHAH SUR	FACTS
Early life	Born **Farid**; father **Hasan Khan Sur** held the jagir of **Sasaram** (Bihar); title Sher Khan from **Bahar Khan Lohani** of Bihar
Rise	**Surajgarh** (1534) over the Lohanis and Mahmud Shah of Bengal; took Gaur; seized Rohtasgarh (c. 1538)
Reign	1540–1545 at Delhi and Agra, after Chausa and Kannauj
Campaigns	Malwa (1542), Raisen (1543); **Samel** (1544) against **Maldeo** of Marwar; **Kalinjar** (1545)
Death	May 1545, wounded by a gunpowder explosion at the siege of Kalinjar; tomb at **Sasaram**
Source	**Tarikh-i-Sher Shahi** of **Abbas Khan Sarwani**, written under Akbar

Sher Shah's measures

FIELD	MEASURE
Land revenue	Land measured; graded good, middling and bad; state's share **one-third** of the average produce; a schedule of crop rates called the **ray**; payment in cash or kind
Peasant records	**Patta** (title-deed given to the peasant) and **kabuliyat** (deed of agreement taken from him); a famine cess of 2.5 seers a bigha
Coinage	Silver **rupiya** of about 178 grains, copper **dam**, gold mohur; the rupiya was the forerunner of the modern rupee
Army	**Dagh** (branding of horses) and **chehra** (descriptive roll of soldiers), revived from Alauddin Khalji
Local government	47 **sarkars**, each under a shiqdar-i-shiqdaran (order) and a munsif-i-munsifan; **parganas** under a shiqdar, amin, fotedar (treasurer) and karkuns (accountants)
Roads and trade	The **Sarak-i-Azam** from Sonargaon to the north-west (later the Grand Trunk Road); roads from Agra to Burhanpur, Agra to Jodhpur and Chittor, and Lahore to Multan; about 1,700 **sarais**, which served as **dak chowkis**; customs levied at only two points

- Akbar's revenue system grew out of Sher Shah's: the ray, measurement and the one-third share were all taken over, and **Todar Mal** served Sher Shah before rising under Akbar.
- Jizya continued under Sher Shah, and his nobility was almost wholly Afghan.
- **Malik Muhammad Jayasi** wrote the Hindi (Awadhi) **Padmavat** (1540) in his reign.
- His son **Islam Shah** (1545–1553; some give 1554) built **Salimgarh** at Delhi (1546); **Muhammad Adil Shah** made **Hemu**, once a market superintendent, his wazir; Humayun defeated **Sikandar Shah Sur** at Sirhind in 1555.

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04 Akbar (1556–1605)

AKBAR	FACTS
Life	Born 15 October 1542 at Amarkot; enthroned at **Kalanaur** (Punjab) on 14 February 1556, aged thirteen; died October 1605 at Agra; tomb at **Sikandra**
Regency	**Bairam Khan**, wakil with the title Khan-i-Khanan (1556–1560); dismissed by farman in 1560, murdered at Patan in 1561
Battles	**Second Panipat** (5 November 1556) against Hemu; Chittor (1567–1568); Tukaroi (1575); **Haldighati** (June 1576)
Revenue	**Karoris** (1573); the **dahsala** (1580), with Todar Mal; the Ilahi gaz and a bamboo jarib
Army and nobility	**Mansabdari**: zat and sawar ranks (divided from 1594–1595); dagh and chehra; ahadis (Chapter 13)
Provinces	Twelve **subas** (1580), divided into sarkars and parganas
Religion	Ibadat Khana (1575), Mahzar (1579), **Tauhid-i-Ilahi** (1582), **sulh-i-kul**
Capitals	Agra; **Fatehpur Sikri** (from c. 1571); Lahore (1585–1598)

Conquests

- **Hemu**, the general and wazir of Muhammad Adil Shah Sur, took Delhi and the title **Vikramajit** (Vikramaditya); at the **Second Battle of Panipat** (5 November 1556) an arrow struck his eye, his army broke, and he was captured and executed.
- **Malwa** (1561–1562): **Baz Bahadur** of Mandu, remembered with Rani **Roopmati**, was driven out.
- **Garh-Katanga** (1564): Rani **Durgavati**, the Gond regent, died fighting **Asaf Khan**; her capital was **Chauragarh** near Jabalpur.
- **Chittor** fell in February 1568 after a four-month siege, defended by **Jaimal and Patta**; **Ranthambhor** and **Kalinjar** surrendered in 1569.
- **Gujarat** (1572–1573): Muzaffar Shah III submitted; at Cambay Akbar saw the sea and met the Portuguese; the **Buland Darwaza** marks this conquest.
- **Bengal**: **Daud Khan Karrani** was defeated at Tukaroi (1575) and executed after Rajmahal (1576), ending the last Afghan kingdom of the north.
- At **Haldighati** (18 June 1576), near Gogunda, **Man Singh** of Amber defeated **Rana Pratap**, whose vanguard was led by the Afghan **Hakim Khan Sur**; Pratap fought on and built a new capital at **Chavand**.
- In 1581 Akbar marched to **Kabul** to crush his half-brother **Mirza Hakim**, whom the rebels of Bengal and Bihar had proclaimed emperor; recovering Ferghana had nothing to do with it (asked in 2003).
- Later conquests: Kabul annexed (1585), **Kashmir** (1586), Sindh (1591), Orissa (1592), **Kandahar** (1595), Ahmadnagar fort (1600, after **Chand Bibi**'s defence), and **Asirgarh** in Khandesh (January 1601), his last conquest.
- **Raja Birbal** was killed in 1586 fighting the **Yusufzai** tribes on the north-west frontier.

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◆ PRELIMS FACT AKBAR'S EMPIRE ON THE MAP

- **1601**: with Asirgarh taken, the empire reached **Khandesh**, Berar and part of Ahmadnagar in the Deccan.
- **1605**: at his death it ran from Kabul and Kandahar to Bengal and Orissa, and from Kashmir to the northern Deccan, in fifteen subas; much of the Gond country (**Gondwana**) of central India stayed outside, and **Lahore** was one of its chief cities.
- Dates paired in 1998: **1556** Akbar's accession; **1600** the English East India Company's charter; **1739** Nadir Shah's sack of Delhi. Shivaji in fact died in **1680**; 1686 is the year Bijapur fell.

Revenue: Akbar's own measures

- Akbar first used Sher Shah's ray with a central price list; in 1573 he appointed **karoris**, each responsible for a crore of dams, to check the figures reported by the qanungos.
- The **dahsala** (1580) fixed the cash demand on the average produce and prices of the previous ten years (1570–1580), with one-third as the state's share; it is linked with **Raja Todar Mal**.
- Land was classed as **polaj** (cultivated every year), **parati** (rested for a while), **chachar** (fallow three or four years) and **banjar** (fallow five years or more).

Religious policy

YEAR	AKBAR'S RELIGIOUS STEPS, IN ORDER
1562	Forbade the enslavement and forced conversion of prisoners of war; married the daughter of **Raja Bharmal** of Amber
1563	Abolished the **pilgrim tax** on Hindus
1564	Abolished the **jizya**
1575	Built the **Ibadat Khana** (House of Worship) at Fatehpur Sikri, at first for debates among Muslim divines
1578	Opened the debates to Hindus, Jains, Zoroastrians, Christians and others
1579	The **Mahzar**, signed by leading ulama, let Akbar choose between conflicting interpretations of Islamic law; he read the khutba himself
1580	First **Jesuit mission** from Goa (Rodolfo Acquaviva, Antonio Monserrate) reached Fatehpur Sikri
1582	Ended the debates; founded **Tauhid-i-Ilahi** (later called Din-i-Ilahi); invited the Jain monk **Hiravijaya Suri**, whom he titled **Jagadguru**
1584	Introduced the **Ilahi era**, a solar calendar dated from his accession in 1556

- The **Ibadat Khana** was the hall at Fatehpur Sikri in which Akbar held discussions with scholars of different religions (asked in 2014); it was neither a mosque nor a private prayer room.
- **Tauhid-i-Ilahi** was a voluntary discipleship of the Sufi type, with no book, priests or place of worship; initiation was on Sundays, the novice received a **shast**, and **Birbal** was its only Hindu member.
- **Sulh-i-kul** ("peace with all") made the ruler stand above sect; Abul Fazl held that the king ruled by divine light, **farr-i-izadi**.
- Akbar allowed widow remarriage, discouraged **sati** unless the widow freely chose it, and raised the age of marriage to 14 for girls and 16 for boys.

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Akbar's court and culture

- The **navratnas** of later tradition included **Abul Fazl**, his brother **Faizi**, **Tansen**, **Birbal** (Mahesh Das), **Todar Mal**, **Man Singh**, **Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan** and **Mirza Aziz Koka**.
- **Abul Fazl** wrote the **Akbarnama**, whose third volume is the **Ain-i-Akbari** (1598); writing about a century after Columbus, he refers to the discovery of the New World (asked in 1997). Bir Singh Bundela killed him in 1602 on Prince Salim's orders.
- **Badauni**'s Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh (1595) is a critical account of Akbar's religious views, kept secret in his lifetime.
- The **Maktab Khana** at Fatehpur Sikri translated Sanskrit works into Persian: the Mahabharata as the **Razmnama** (1584–1586), the Ramayana (by Badauni), the Lilavati (by Faizi).
- **Nizamuddin Panipati** translated the **Yogavasistha** into Persian in 1597, in Akbar's reign, with Prince Salim's patronage.
- **Tansen** (born Ramtanu) came to Akbar's court in 1562 from Raja Ramachandra of Rewa; the name Tansen is traced to Raja Vikramajit of Gwalior, and Akbar gave him the title **Mian**; he composed dhrupads on deities and on his patrons and created ragas such as Darbari Kanada.
- **Dhrupad** is a devotional form whose alap uses syllables drawn from mantras; it flourished at the Gwalior court of **Raja Man Singh Tomar** (1486–1516), before the Mughals.
- Akbar's painting workshop was led by **Mir Sayyid Ali** and **Abdus Samad**; its first great work, the **Hamzanama** (c. 1562–1577), had about 1,400 paintings on cloth; **Daswant** and **Basawan** were its leading Indian painters.
- **Nastaliq** was the flowing Persian script of Mughal manuscripts and inscriptions; Akbar titled the calligrapher Muhammad Husain Kashmiri **Zarrin Qalam**.
- **Tulsidas**, author of the Ramcharitmanas, was Akbar's contemporary and wrote outside the court.

05 Jahangir (1605–1627)

JAHANGIR	FACTS
Life	Born **Salim**, 1569, at Sikri, named after Shaikh Salim Chishti; mother **Mariam-uz-Zamani**; revolted from Allahabad (1600); died 1627 on the way back from Kashmir; tomb at **Shahdara**, Lahore
Revolts faced	Prince **Khusrau** (1606); Prince **Khurram** (1622–1625); **Mahabat Khan**'s seizure of the emperor (1626)
Campaigns	Peace with **Mewar** (1615); Bengal subdued by **Islam Khan**; Kangra (1620); war with **Malik Ambar** of Ahmadnagar; **Kandahar lost** to Shah Abbas I (1622)
Measures	The golden **chain of justice** with bells at the Agra fort; twelve ordinances on accession; **do-aspa sih-aspa** ranks; a ban on tobacco (1617)
Writing	**Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri**, his memoir in Persian
Titles given	**Nadir-uz-Zaman** (Abul Hasan), **Nadir-ul-Asr** (Ustad Mansur), English Khan (William Hawkins)

- The fifth Sikh Guru, **Arjan Dev**, compiler of the Adi Granth (1604), was accused of blessing Khusrau and died in Mughal custody at Lahore in 1606.
- Jahangir married **Nur Jahan** (Mehr-un-Nissa) in 1611; with her father **Itimad-ud-Daulah**, her brother **Asaf Khan** and Prince Khurram she formed the "junta"; coins were struck in her name.

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- **Amar Singh**, son of Rana Pratap, made peace in 1615 without attending court in person; his son **Karan Singh** received a mansab of 5000.
- **Islam Khan Chishti** subdued **Musa Khan** and the **Bara Bhuiyans** of Bengal and made **Dhaka** (Jahangirnagar) the capital.
- Under **do-aspa sih-aspa** (troopers with two or three horses), a chosen noble kept, and was paid for, double the troopers of his sawar rank without a rise in zat rank.
- Jahangir continued Akbar's tolerance: he revived neither the jizya nor the pilgrim tax, and the poet-saint **Tukaram** lived in his reign.
- Mughal painting reached its **zenith** under Jahangir, who shifted the workshop from illustrated manuscripts to **albums** (muraqqa), individual **portraits** and studies of birds, flowers and animals.
- **Ustad Mansur** painted the turkey cock, the zebra and Kashmir flowers; **Abul Hasan** painted allegorical portraits of the emperor; **Bishandas** was known for portraits.
- **William Hawkins** came to Jahangir's court (1609–1611); after the English beat the Portuguese at **Swally** near Surat (1612), a **farman of Jahangir** let the East India Company open its factory at **Surat** (1613); **Sir Thomas Roe**, ambassador of James I, was at court from 1615 to 1619.

◆ PRELIMS FACT **MUGHAL PAINTING AND THE SCHOOLS AFTER IT**

- Humayun brought **Mir Sayyid Ali** and **Abdus Samad** (titled Shirin Qalam); Akbar built the workshop; Jahangir took it to its zenith; Shah Jahan's painting became formal; Aurangzeb withdrew patronage and painters moved to regional courts.
- The **Rajasthani** and **Pahari** schools (Basohli, Guler, **Kangra**) drew on Mughal technique.
- **Bani Thani** (c. 1750), by **Nihal Chand** at the court of **Raja Sawant Singh**, belongs to the **Kishangarh** school of Rajasthan.
- **Kalighat** painting arose in nineteenth-century Calcutta as a bazaar art for pilgrims, outside the Mughal line.

06 Shah Jahan (1628–1658)

SHAH JAHAN	FACTS
Life	Born **Khurram**, 1592, at Lahore; crowned 1628; deposed 1658 and held in the Agra fort until his death in 1666
Wife	**Mumtaz Mahal** (Arjumand Banu Begum), daughter of Asaf Khan; died 1631 at **Burhanpur**
Revolts	**Jujhar Singh Bundela** of Orchha; **Khan Jahan Lodi**, governor of the Deccan
Deccan	**Ahmadnagar** ended (1633; Husain Shah imprisoned in Gwalior fort); treaties with **Bijapur** and **Golconda** (1636); four Deccan subas under Aurangzeb as viceroy
North-west	**Kandahar** regained (1638) and lost (1649); **Balkh** campaign (1646–1647)
Europeans	Portuguese expelled from **Hugli** (1632)
Measures	Sijda and zaminbos replaced by the **chahar taslim**; capital moved to **Shahjahanabad**, Delhi (1648); the **Peacock Throne** (1635)

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SHAH JAHAN	FACTS
Court	**Abdul Hamid Lahori** (Padshahnama); poet-laureate **Kalim**; **Pandit Jagannath** (Panditraj); Kavindracharya Saraswati

- **Abdul Hamid Lahori** was the official historian of Shah Jahan's reign and wrote the **Padshahnama** (asked in 2006).
- In 1632 the governor of Bengal, **Qasim Khan**, took **Hugli** from the Portuguese, who had used it for piracy and slave raiding in the Bay of Bengal.
- Bijapur accepted Mughal suzerainty in 1636 and paid an indemnity of twenty lakh rupees; Golconda agreed to read the emperor's name in the khutba.
- Shah Jahan's empire took in Kabul, for eleven years Kandahar, and the Deccan as far as the old Ahmadnagar lands, with Bijapur and Golconda as tributaries (the map asked in 2001).
- **Dara Shikoh**, a Qadiri Sufi titled **Shah Buland Iqbal**, wrote the **Majma-ul-Bahrain** and translated fifty Upanishads as the **Sirr-i-Akbar** (1657).
- In the war of succession (1657–1659) Aurangzeb, with Murad, beat **Jaswant Singh** at **Dharmat** (April 1658) and Dara at **Samugarh** (May 1658); Dara was executed in 1659 and Murad in 1661, and Shuja fled to Arakan.

◆ PRELIMS TRAP BALKH AND QANDAHAR

- The **Balkh** campaign (1646–1647) was led by Prince **Murad** and then **Aurangzeb**. Its motive was a **friendly ruler in Balkh and Badakhshan**, which bordered Kabul. Shah Jahan was not trying to win Samarqand and Ferghana, or to fix a frontier on the Amu Darya.
- The army won battles and took Balkh, then withdrew in October 1647 with heavy losses; the campaign gained little.
- **Qandahar** came back through its Persian governor **Ali Mardan Khan** (1638) and fell to **Shah Abbas II** in 1649. Sieges by Aurangzeb (1649, 1652) and **Dara** (1653) failed. Dara led the Qandahar siege; he never went to Balkh.
- The loss of Qandahar was a blow chiefly because it was a **strategic stronghold** on the route between Persia and Kabul.

07 Aurangzeb (1658–1707)

AURANGZEB	FACTS
Life	Born 1618 at Dohad; crowned 1658, with the title **Alamgir**; died 3 March 1707 at **Ahmadnagar**; buried at **Khuldabad**
Phases	North, 1658–1681; Deccan, 1681–1707
East	**Mir Jumla** in Assam (Treaty of Ghilajharighat, 1663); **Shaista Khan** took **Chittagong** (1666); Mughal defeat at **Saraighat** (1671) by **Lachit Borphukan**
Revolts	Jats under **Gokula** (1669); **Satnamis** at Narnaul (1672); Afghan tribes; **Guru Tegh Bahadur** executed at Delhi (1675); Rathor war over Marwar (1679); Prince **Akbar**'s revolt (1681)

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AURANGZEB	FACTS
Deccan	Treaty of **Purandar** with Shivaji (1665); **Bijapur** annexed (1686), **Golconda** (1687); **Sambhaji** executed (1689); **Jinji** taken (1698)
Measures	**Muhtasibs** (censors of morals); kalima dropped from coins; Nauroz stopped; **jharokha darshan** and court music given up; **tuladan** stopped; **jizya** reimposed (1679); **Fatawa-i-Alamgiri**

- Aurangzeb reimposed the **jizya** in 1679, reversing Akbar's abolition of 1564.
- When **Jaswant Singh** of Marwar died in 1678, Aurangzeb took Marwar under direct rule; **Durgadas Rathore** rescued the infant **Ajit Singh** and kept up the resistance.
- Prince Akbar, sent against the Rajputs, joined them in 1681, then fled to **Sambhaji** and later to Persia; this drew Aurangzeb south.
- Under Aurangzeb the empire reached its **greatest extent**, with twenty-one subas, six of them in the Deccan; Hindus, mostly Rajputs and Marathas, formed about a third of the higher nobility in his later years.
- The ninth Guru's son, **Guru Gobind Singh**, founded the **Khalsa** at Anandpur in 1699 and wrote the Persian **Zafarnama** to Aurangzeb.

08 Battles of the Period

BATTLE	YEAR	SIDES	RESULT
Panipat I	1526	Babur v. Ibrahim Lodi	Lodi killed; Mughal rule founded
Khanwa	1527	Babur v. Rana Sanga's confederacy	Rajput challenge broken; Babur takes the title Ghazi
Chanderi	1528	Babur v. Medini Rai	Fort taken; jauhar
Ghaghra	1529	Babur v. Mahmud Lodi and Nusrat Shah of Bengal	Eastern Afghans checked
Surajgarh	1534	Sher Khan v. Mahmud Shah of Bengal and the Lohanis	Sher Khan master of Bihar
Chausa	1539	Sher Khan v. Humayun	Humayun routed; Sher Khan becomes Sher Shah
Kannauj (Bilgram)	1540	Sher Shah v. Humayun	Humayun driven into exile
Samel	1544	Sher Shah v. Maldeo of Marwar	Ajmer and Jodhpur taken
Sirhind	1555	Humayun v. Sikandar Shah Sur	Delhi recovered
Panipat II	1556	Akbar (Bairam Khan) v. Hemu	Hemu captured and executed
Haldighati	1576	Man Singh for Akbar v. Rana Pratap	Mughal victory; Pratap escapes
Swally	1612	English ships v. the Portuguese, off Surat	English win; Surat factory follows (1613)

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BATTLE	YEAR	SIDES	RESULT
Dharmat	1658	Aurangzeb and Murad v. Jaswant Singh (for Dara)	Aurangzeb wins
Samugarh	1658	Aurangzeb and Murad v. Dara	Dara routed; Agra taken
Khajwa, Deorai	1659	Aurangzeb v. Shuja; v. Dara	Both defeated
Saraighat	1671	Ahoms (Lachit Borphukan) v. Ram Singh for Aurangzeb	Ahom victory near Guwahati

09 Europeans in Mughal India

POWER	ARRIVAL OR COMPANY	EARLY BASES	NOTES
Portuguese	Vasco da Gama at Calicut, 1498	Cochin (1503), **Goa (1510)**, Bassein (1534), Diu (1535), Daman (1559), Hugli (c. 1579)	Albuquerque took Goa from Bijapur; the Hugli base was used for piracy until 1632
English	East India Company chartered 31 December 1600	**Masulipatnam** (1611), **Surat** (1613), Hariharpur and Balasore in Orissa (1633), Madras (1639)	**Fort St George** at Madras was the first English fort
Dutch	VOC formed 1602	**Masulipatnam** (1605), **Pulicat** (1610), Surat (1616), Cochin (1663)	Pulicat (Fort Geldria) was their Coromandel headquarters
Danes	Danish company 1616	Tranquebar (1620), later Serampore	Minor trade
French	Company formed 1664 under Colbert, the last of the major companies	**Surat** (1668), Masulipatnam (1669), Pondicherry (1674)	The French took Madras in 1746, when Dupleix governed Pondicherry

- The English set up their first factories in **Jahangir's** reign: Masulipatnam (1611), in Golconda territory, and **Surat** (1613), by Jahangir's farman.
- By about 1620 the English had factories under Surat at **Broach**, Ahmedabad, Agra and Burhanpur; **Chicacole** and **Trichinopoly** came under English control only in the eighteenth century.
- The English opened their first factory in eastern India at **Hariharpur** in Orissa (1633), with Balasore the same year; they reached Hugli in 1651.
- Fort St George (1639–1640) was followed by Fort St David at Cuddalore (1690s) and Fort William at Calcutta (1696–1700s); **Fort St Angelo** at Kannur was Portuguese (1505).
- The Dutch took **Kochi** from the Portuguese in 1663 and fortified it as Fort Williams; the British took it in 1795.
- The Portuguese brought New World plants to India in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries: **chilli**, **tobacco**, maize, potato, **pineapple**, **papaya**, **guava**, cashew and sapodilla.
- The Ain-i-Akbari already lists the pineapple, and Jahangir tried to ban tobacco in 1617.

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◆ PRELIMS TRAP EUROPEAN FIRSTS AND DATES

- The Portuguese took **Goa in 1510**; 1498 is Vasco da Gama's arrival at Calicut.
- The first **Dutch** factory was at **Masulipatnam** (1605). Among Surat, Pulicat, Cochin and Cassimbazar, Pulicat (1610) is the earliest.
- The first **English** factory in south India was at Masulipatnam; the first English **fort** was Fort St George. Fort William came about sixty years later.
- Kochi was Portuguese before it was Dutch, and later British; it did not stay Dutch till 1947.
- Order of arrival: Portuguese (1498), English (1600), Dutch (1602), Danes (1616), French (1664). The English company is two years older than the Dutch.

10 Travellers and Europeans at the Mughal Court

VISITOR	COUNTRY, ROLE	REIGN	REMEMBERED FOR
Antonio Monserrate	Spanish Jesuit	Akbar	First Jesuit mission (1580); account of the court
Ralph Fitch	English merchant	Akbar	Visited 1585; found Agra and Fatehpur Sikri larger than London
William Hawkins	English captain	Jahangir	At court 1609–1611; mansab of 400; "English Khan"
Sir Thomas Roe	English ambassador of James I	Jahangir	At court 1615–1619; protection for the Surat factory
Francisco Pelsaert	Dutch merchant	Jahangir	The **Remonstrantie**, on trade and the peasants' poverty
Peter Mundy	English merchant	Shah Jahan	Agra in the 1630s; the Taj under construction
Mandelslo	German	Shah Jahan	Visited 1638
Jean-Baptiste Tavernier	French gem merchant	Shah Jahan, Aurangzeb	Six voyages; the **diamonds** and diamond mines of Golconda (Kollur); the Peacock Throne
Niccolao Manucci	Venetian	Shah Jahan, Aurangzeb	Gunner for Dara; the **Storia do Mogor**
Francois Bernier	French physician	End of Shah Jahan's reign, Aurangzeb	Saw the war of succession; argued that there was no private property in land
Jean de Thevenot	French	Aurangzeb	Visited 1666–1667; Surat and the Deccan
Abbe Carre	French priest	Aurangzeb	Travelled 1672–1674 for the French company
Gemelli Careri	Italian	Aurangzeb	Met the emperor in his Deccan camp (1695)

- Pairs asked in 1999: Jahangir with **Hawkins**, Shah Jahan with **Tavernier**, Aurangzeb with **Manucci**; **Roe** came under Jahangir, ten years after Akbar's death.

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- Of Bernier, Tavernier, Thevenot and Carre, **Tavernier** wrote at length on Indian diamonds and diamond mines.

11 Who Built What

BUILDER	MONUMENT	PLACE, DATE, NOTE
Babur	Kabuli Bagh mosque; Aram Bagh	Panipat (1527); Agra, a charbagh
Humayun	Din-panah	Delhi (1533), site of Purana Qila
Sher Shah	Qila-i-Kuhna mosque; Rohtas Fort; his tomb	Purana Qila; near Jhelum (1541); Sasaram, in a lake
Islam Shah Sur	Salimgarh	Delhi (1546)
Haji Begum, in Akbar's reign	**Humayun's tomb**	Delhi (completed c. 1570); architect Mirak Mirza Ghiyas; first garden-tomb in a charbagh
Akbar	Agra Fort; forts at Lahore and Allahabad	Agra in red sandstone (from 1565)
Akbar	**Fatehpur Sikri**: Jama Masjid, **Buland Darwaza**, Panch Mahal, Diwan-i-Khas, Ibadat Khana	From c. 1571; Buland Darwaza completed 1575 for the Gujarat conquest
Raja Man Singh	Govind Dev temple	Vrindavan (1590), with Akbar's support
Jahangir	Akbar's tomb	Sikandra, completed 1613
Jahangir	Shalimar Bagh	Srinagar (1619)
Asaf Khan	Nishat Bagh	Srinagar (1633)
Nur Jahan	**Itimad-ud-Daulah's tomb**	Agra (1622–1628); first Mughal tomb wholly of white marble, with pietra dura
Shah Jahan	**Taj Mahal**	Agra (1632–1653); Ustad Ahmad Lahori usually named as architect
Shah Jahan	Red Fort, Jama Masjid	Shahjahanabad, Delhi (fort completed 1648)
Shah Jahan	Moti Masjid; Diwan-i-Aam and Diwan-i-Khas	Agra Fort
Shah Jahan	Shalimar Gardens	Lahore (1641–1642)
Aurangzeb	Moti Masjid	Red Fort, Delhi
Aurangzeb	Badshahi Mosque	Lahore (1671–1673)
Aurangzeb's reign	Bibi ka Maqbara	Aurangabad, modelled on the Taj; tomb of Dilras Banu Begum (Rabia-ud-Daurani); Prince Azam Shah is often named as its builder

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◆ PRELIMS TRAP SANDSTONE, MARBLE AND BRICK

- The **Buland Darwaza** and the khanqah at Fatehpur Sikri are of **red and buff sandstone**, with marble only as inlay; the white-marble building there is the **tomb of Shaikh Salim Chishti**.
- The **Bara Imambara** and **Rumi Darwaza** of Lucknow (1784, Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula) are of **brick and lime plaster**, without the red sandstone and marble of Mughal Agra and Delhi (asked in 2018).
- Itimad-ud-Daulah's tomb is the first **Mughal** tomb in white marble; Hoshang Shah's tomb at Mandu (c. 1440) is older.

12 Texts and Authors

TEXT	AUTHOR	REIGN, SUBJECT
Baburnama (Tuzuk-i-Baburi)	Babur	Memoir in Chaghatai Turkish; Persian by Abdur Rahim (1589)
Humayun-nama	Gulbadan Begum, Humayun's half-sister	Life of Humayun, written at Akbar's request
Tazkirat-ul-Waqiat	Jauhar Aftabchi	Humayun's ewer-bearer's memoir
Tarikh-i-Sher Shahi	Abbas Khan Sarwani	Sher Shah; written under Akbar
Padmavat	Malik Muhammad Jayasi	Awadhi poem (1540)
Akbarnama, **Ain-i-Akbari**	Abul Fazl	Official history of Akbar; the Ain is its third volume
Muntakhab-ut-Tawarikh	Abdul Qadir Badauni	Critical history of Akbar's reign
Razmnama	Naqib Khan, Badauni and others; polished by Faizi	Persian Mahabharata (1584–1586)
Persian **Yogavasistha**	Nizamuddin Panipati	1597, Akbar's reign
Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri	Jahangir	Memoir in Persian
Padshahnama	Abdul Hamid Lahori	Official history of Shah Jahan
Majma-ul-Bahrain, **Sirr-i-Akbar**	Dara Shikoh	Sufism and Vedanta; Persian Upanishads (1657)
Maasir-i-Alamgiri	Saqi Mustaid Khan	Aurangzeb's reign
Muntakhab-ul-Lubab	Khafi Khan	History begun secretly under Aurangzeb, who had banned official history-writing; finished under Muhammad Shah
Fatawa-i-Alamgiri	Board under Shaikh Nizam Burhanpuri	Digest of Hanafi law in Arabic, Aurangzeb's reign

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Prelims Quick Revision

- **Panipat I (1526)**: Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi with the tulughma and the araba; invited by Daulat Khan Lodi and Alam Khan Lodi.
- **Khanwa (1527)**: Babur broke Rana Sanga's confederacy and took the title Ghazi.
- **Chausa (1539) and Kannauj (1540)**: Sher Shah defeated Humayun, who spent fifteen years in exile.
- **Sher Shah**: patta and kabuliyat, one-third share, the ray, the silver rupiya, dagh and chehra, the Sarak-i-Azam.
- **Panipat II (1556)**: Bairam Khan's army defeated Hemu (Vikramajit), wazir of Adil Shah Sur.
- **Dahsala (1580)**: Akbar's cash demand on ten-year averages, worked out with Todar Mal.
- **Ibadat Khana (1575)**: hall at Fatehpur Sikri for debates among scholars of all faiths; closed 1582.
- **Akbar's steps**: pilgrim tax ended 1563, jizya 1564, Mahzar 1579, Tauhid-i-Ilahi 1582, Ilahi era 1584.
- **1581**: Akbar marched to Kabul against Mirza Hakim; Asirgarh (1601) was his last conquest.
- **Yogavasistha**: translated into Persian by Nizamuddin Panipati in 1597, under Akbar.
- **Jahangir**: chain of justice, do-aspa sih-aspa; painting at its zenith, with albums and portraits.
- **Surat (1613)**: English factory opened by Jahangir's farman; Roe at court 1615–1619.
- **Balkh (1646–1647)**: Shah Jahan sought a friendly ruler in Balkh and Badakhshan, bordering Kabul.
- **Qandahar**: lost to Persia in 1649; sieges by Aurangzeb and Dara failed.
- **Dharmat (1658)**: Aurangzeb and Murad defeated Jaswant Singh; Samugarh followed.
- **Aurangzeb**: jizya reimposed 1679; Bijapur 1686, Golconda 1687; died at Ahmadnagar, 1707.

Previous Year Questions

2025

Consider the following fruits :
I. Papaya
II. Pineapple
III. Guava
How many of the above were introduced in India by the Portuguese in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries?

a Only one | b Only two | **c All the three** | d None

Answer: (c). Papaya, pineapple and guava are all New World fruits that the Portuguese brought to India in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, along with crops like chilli and tobacco.

2022

"Yogavasistha" was translated into Persian by Nizamuddin Panipati during the reign of:

a Akbar | b Humayun | c Shahjahan | d Aurangzeb

Answer: (a). Nizamuddin Panipati translated the Yogavasistha into Persian in 1597, under Akbar and with Prince Salim's patronage, as part of Akbar's translation programme.

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2021 In the first quarter of seventeenth century, in which of the following was/were the factory/ factories of the English East India Company located?
1. Broach
2. Chicacole
3. Trichinopoly
Select the correct answer using the code given below.

a 1 only | b 1 and 2 | c 3 only | d 2 and 3

Answer: (a). The English opened factories at Surat (1613) and Broach (c. 1616) under Jahangir; Chicacole and Trichinopoly came under English control only in the eighteenth century.

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

a Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar
b Tansen composed Dhrupads on Hindu gods and goddesses.
c Tansen composed songs on his patrons.
d Tansen invented many Ragas.

Answer: (a). Tradition credits Raja Vikramajit of Gwalior with the title 'Tansen' (Akbar gave him the title Mian), and Tansen composed dhrupads on deities and patrons and created ragas such as Darbari Kanada.

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

a Humayun | b Akbar | c Jahangir | d Shah Jahan

Answer: (c). Under Jahangir, Mughal painting moved from large illustrated manuscripts to albums (muraqqa), individual portraits and nature studies by artists like Abul Hasan and Mansur.

2018 With reference to the cultural history of India, consider the following statements :
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 at Lucknow.
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). The official key treats both as wrong: Buland Darwaza and the khanqah are chiefly red sandstone, and Lucknow's Bara Imambara and Rumi Darwaza are of brick and lime plaster.

2018 Which one of the following foreign travellers elaborately discussed about diamonds and diamond mines of India ?

a Francois Bernier | b Jean-Baptiste Tavernier
c Jean de Thevenot | d Abbe Barthelemy Carre

Answer: (b). French gem merchant Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, who visited India during Shah Jahan's and Aurangzeb's reigns, described the Golconda diamond mines such as Kollur in detail.

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2015 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
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

Answer: (b). Gunpowder and the true arch and dome were already known in India before 1526; Babur's victory at Panipat founded the Timurid, or Mughal, dynasty in India.

2014 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 for religious debates, first among Muslim divines and later with Hindu, Jain, Zoroastrian and Christian scholars.

2012 With reference to Dhrupad, one of the major traditions of India that has been kept alive for centuries, which of the following statements are correct?
1. Dhrupad originated and developed in the Rajput kingdoms during the Mughal period.
2. Dhrupad is primarily a devotional and spiritual music.
3. Dhrupad Alap uses Sanskrit syllables from Mantras.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a 1 and 2 only | **b 2 and 3 only**
c 1, 2 and 3 | d None of the above is correct

Answer: (b). Dhrupad is an older devotional form, raised to new heights at Raja Man Singh Tomar's Gwalior court before the Mughals arrived, and its alap uses mantra-derived syllables.

2009 With whose permission did the English set up their first factory in Surat?

a Akbar | **b Jahangir** | c Shahjahan | d Aurangzeb

Answer: (b). Jahangir's farman of 1613 permitted the English East India Company to open its factory at Surat.

2008 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 set up factories at Masulipatnam (1611) and Surat (1613), both during Jahangir's reign.

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2007 Who among the following Europeans were the last to come to pre-independence India as traders?

a Dutch | b English | c French | d Portuguese

Answer: (c). The Portuguese came in 1498, the English and Dutch companies were formed in 1600 and 1602, and the French East India Company only in 1664.

2007 Which one of the following was the first fort constructed by the British in India?

a Fort William | b Fort St. George | c Fort St. David | d Fort St. Angelo

Answer: (b). Fort St George at Madras, begun in 1639–40, was the first English fort; Fort St David and Fort William came later and Fort St Angelo was Portuguese.

2006 In the year 1613, where was the English East India Company given permission to set up a factory (trading post)?

a Bangalore | b Madras | c Masulipatnam | d Surat

Answer: (d). In 1613 Jahangir's farman allowed the English East India Company to set up its factory at Surat.

2006 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 wrote the Padshahnama, the official history of Shah Jahan's reign.

2005 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 Kochi from the Portuguese in 1663 and fortified it as Fort Williams; it passed to the British in 1795.

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2003 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 Lodi, a son of Bahlul Lodi and so Ibrahim's uncle, claimed the Delhi throne and joined Daulat Khan in inviting Babur.

2003 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 marched to Kabul in 1581 to crush his half-brother Mirza Hakim, who had backed the rebels in Bengal and Bihar; Ferghana played no part in the campaign.

2003 In India, among the following locations, the Dutch established their earliest factory at

a Surat | b Pullicat | c Cochin | d Cassimbazar

Answer: (b). Of the places listed, Pulicat (c. 1610, later Fort Geldria) was the earliest Dutch factory; Surat followed in 1616 and Cochin was taken in 1663.

2003 With reference to the entry of European powers into India, which one of the following statements is NOT correct?

- a The Portuguese captured Goa in 1499
- b The English opened their first factory in South India at Masulipatnam
- c In Eastern India, the English Company opened its first factory in Orissa in 1633
- d Under the leadership of Dupleix, the French occupied Madras in 1746

Answer: (a). Albuquerque took Goa from the Bijapur sultanate in 1510, so the date 1499 is wrong; the other three statements are correct.

2003 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). At Dharmat in April 1658, during the war of succession, Aurangzeb and Murad defeated the imperial army sent by Dara Shikoh under Jaswant Singh.

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2002 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). Shah Jahan's 1646 Balkh campaign sought a friendly buffer ruler in Balkh and Badakhshan to protect Kabul, though the campaign failed.

2001 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: (a). Khanua (1527) broke the Rajput confederacy led by Rana Sanga, the strongest rival power in north India, which is why it secured Babur's rule more than Panipat did.

2001 The shaded area in the above map shows the empire of
[Map not reproduced]

a Ala-ud-din Khilji

b Mohammad Tughlaq

c Shah Jahan

d Aurangzeb

Answer: (c). The map showed a Mughal empire including Kabul and Qandahar with the Deccan held only to Ahmadnagar, which matches Shah Jahan's reign before Aurangzeb annexed Bijapur and Golconda.

2000 The given map refers to the kingdom of
[Map not reproduced]

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 map showed the Mughal empire as it stood when Akbar took Asirgarh and annexed Khandesh in 1601.

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1999 Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched?

a Jahangir : William Hawkins
b Akbar : Sir Thomas Roe
c Shahjahan : Travernier
d Aurangzeb : Manucci

Answer: (b). Sir Thomas Roe was James I's ambassador to Jahangir (1615–19), a decade after Akbar's death in 1605.

1998 Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the lists:
List I
A. 1556
B. 1600
C. 1686
D. 1739
List II
1. Battle of Haldighati
2. Nadir Shah's capture of Delhi
3. Death of Shivaji
4. Grant of Charter to East India Company
5. Accession of Akbar

a A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1
b A-5, B-4, C-3, D-2
c A-5, B-2, C-1, D-4
d A-1, B-5, C-3, D-2

Answer: (b). Akbar acceded in 1556, the English East India Company got its charter in 1600 and Nadir Shah sacked Delhi in 1739, leaving Shivaji's death to pair with 1686 by elimination.

1998 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.
[Map not reproduced]
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 shaded territory matched Akbar's empire at his death in 1605, with Gondwana marked as unconquered and Lahore as the marked city.

1998 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). Shah Jahan's Balkh, Badakhshan and Qandahar campaigns of 1646–1653 all failed, so R is false, while A is accepted as true because Dara led the 1653 Qandahar siege.

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1998 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). Qandahar, lost to the Safavids in 1649, was the strategic fortress guarding the route between Persia and Kabul.

1997 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). Abul Fazl, writing in Akbar's reign about a century after Columbus, is the only one of the four who lived late enough to mention the New World.

1996 Nastaliq was

- 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

Answer: (a). Nastaliq was the flowing Persian calligraphic script favoured at the Mughal court for manuscripts and inscriptions.

1996 Mughal painting reached its zenith under

- a Humayun
- b Akbar
- c Jahangir
- d Shahjahan

Answer: (c). Under Jahangir, a connoisseur who could name individual painters' hands, Mughal painting reached its peak in portraiture and natural history studies.

1995 The Mughal School of Painting formed the spinal column of the various schools of Indian miniature art. Which one of the following painting styles was not affected by Mughal painting?

- a Pahari
- b Rajasthani
- c Kangra
- d Kalighata

Answer: (d). Kalighat painting grew up as a nineteenth-century bazaar style of Calcutta, whereas Pahari, Kangra and Rajasthani miniatures drew heavily on Mughal technique.

1995 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 at Hugli engaged in piracy and slave raiding in the Bay of Bengal until Shah Jahan's forces expelled them in 1632.

LOTUSARISE IAS

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MEDIEVAL HISTORY PRELIMS SUMMARY

PYQS 1995–2026

15

Bhakti, Sufi and Sikh Movements

Bhakti, the path of loving devotion to a personal god, became a mass movement first in the Tamil country, where the Alvars and Nayanars sang in Tamil from about the 6th century. Acharyas from Shankara to Ramanuja and Madhva gave it a philosophy; from the 13th century saints carried it into Maharashtra, and from the 14th into the north, Bengal and Assam, in the people's own languages. Sufi orders came with the Turkish conquest, and their khanqahs, music and shrines drew Hindus as well as Muslims. In Punjab Guru Nanak's teaching grew under nine successors into the Sikh community, which Guru Gobind Singh organised as the Khalsa in 1699.

SYLLABUS

PRELIMS — History of India and Indian National Movement

MAINS · GS PAPER I — Indian culture: salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture

CONTENTS

01 The Southern Roots of Bhakti
02 Bhakti in Maharashtra and the North
03 The Sufi Movement
04 The Sikh Gurus
05 Terms
06 Previous Year Questions

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PYQ RADAR 19 QUESTIONS, 1995–2026

- **Asked:** 1996 (three times), 1997, 2001, 2002 (twice), 2004 (twice), 2006, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2022 (twice).
- **Bhakti saints of Maharashtra and the north** (7 questions): Raskhan's Prem Vatika, the saints' trades, the first saint to preach in Hindi, Tukaram's emperor, the saint preaching when Babur came, the Bijak and Pushti Marg, Nimbarka and Kabir against Akbar and Sirhindi.
- **Acharyas and southern bhakti** (6): Shankara, Ramanuja and Chaitanya in order, a non-bhakti name (Nagarjuna), the Tamil Siddhas and the Lingayats, Tyagaraja and Annamacharya, Ramanuja's teaching, Nathamuni.
- **Sufis** (4): the saint who upheld sama, where the name Chishti comes from, four statements on Sufis and orders, Sufi practices.
- **Sikh Gurus** (2): a pairs match (manji, miri-piri, Adi Granth, Dal Khalsa) and statements on Banda Bahadur, Guru Arjan and Gurmukhi.
- **Pattern:** most questions test one link: saint and text, saint and trade, acharya and school, Guru and institution, or which ruler a saint lived under. Learn the saints tables, the silsilahs table, the Gurus table and the box on saints and the rulers of their time.

01 The Southern Roots of Bhakti

- The **Alvars** were 12 Vaishnava poet-saints and the **Nayanars** 63 Shaiva poet-saints of the Tamil country, between about the 6th and 9th centuries; **Andal** was the only woman Alvar and **Karaikkal Ammaiyar** a woman Nayanar.
- **Nathamuni** (10th century), the first of the Sri Vaishnava acharyas, collected the Alvars' 4,000 hymns as the **Nalayira Divya Prabandham**, which came to be called the Tamil Veda. In the same century Nambi Andar Nambi collected the Nayanars' hymns; the first seven books of the Shaiva canon, the **Tirumurai**, form the **Tevaram**, the hymns of Appar, Sambandar and Sundarar.
- The Tamil **Siddhas** (Sittars), yogi-poets such as Tirumular (Tirumantiram) and Sivavakkiyar, were monotheistic, condemned idolatry, attacked caste and Brahmin ritual, and most denied rebirth.
- **Basavanna**, minister of the Kalachuri king **Bijjala II** at Kalyana, founded the **Virashaiva** (Lingayat) movement in 12th-century Karnataka; Lingayats rejected caste hierarchy, questioned the theory of rebirth, bury their dead, opposed child marriage and allowed widow remarriage.
- Basavanna's **Anubhava Mantapa** was an assembly open to men and women of every caste; his Kannada **vachanas** and those of **Akka Mahadevi** and Allama Prabhu carry Lingayat teaching, and Lingayats wear the **ishtalinga**, a small linga on the body.

The acharyas

ACHARYA	BORN, DATES	SCHOOL	SAMPRADAYA	KEY IDEA OR TEXT
Shankara	Kaladi (Kerala); c. 788–820	**Advaita** (non-dualism)	Four mathas	Brahman alone is real, the world is maya; jnana (knowledge) liberates

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ACHARYA	BORN, DATES	SCHOOL	SAMPRADAYA	KEY IDEA OR TEXT
Ramanuja	Sriperumbudur; c. 1017–1137	**Vishishtadvaita** (qualified non-dualism)	Sri Vaishnava	Sribhashya; bhakti and **prapatti** (surrender) open to all
Nimbarka	Telugu Brahmin, settled in Braj; date disputed (12th c. by many)	**Dvaitadvaita** (Bhedabheda)	Sanaka	Radha-Krishna worship
Madhva	Udupi; c. 1238–1317	**Dvaita** (dualism)	Brahma	God, soul and matter eternally distinct; Krishna matha at Udupi
Vallabha	Telugu family of Varanasi; 1479–1531	**Shuddhadvaita** (pure non-dualism)	Rudra	**Pushtimarga**, the path of grace (pushti); Krishna bhakti
Chaitanya	Nabadwip (Bengal); 1486–1534	Achintya Bhedabheda	Gaudiya	Sankirtan, ecstatic group singing of Krishna's name

- In time order the best-known acharyas run **Shankara** (8th to 9th century), **Ramanuja** (11th to 12th), **Madhva** (13th), **Vallabha** and **Chaitanya** (late 15th to early 16th).
- Shankara set up four mathas: **Sringeri** (south), **Dwarka** (west), **Puri** (east) and **Jyotirmath** near Badrinath (north).
- **Ramanuja** taught that loving devotion to Vishnu, with complete self-surrender (prapatti), was the best means of salvation, and that God's grace mattered more than knowledge; he opened this path to shudras and outcastes.
- Ramanuja headed the Vaishnava monastery at **Srirangam**; by tradition he moved to Melkote and converted the Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana.
- The **Statue of Equality**, a 216-foot seated panchaloha figure of Ramanuja at Muchintal near Hyderabad, was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 5 February 2022 for his 1,000th birth anniversary; it is described as the second-tallest seated statue in the world.
- **Pushtimarga** was founded by Vallabhacharya, not by Madhva, whose school is Dvaita.

◆ PRELIMS TRAP BUDDHIST THINKERS AMONG THE ACHARYAS

- **Nagarjuna** (about the 2nd century CE) founded the **Madhyamaka** (Madhyamika) school of Mahayana Buddhism; he was no bhakti saint. Tukaram, Tyagaraja and Vallabhacharya were.
- **Aryadeva**, Nagarjuna's disciple, was a Buddhist Madhyamaka thinker, not a Jaina scholar.
- **Dignaga** was a Buddhist logician; **Nathamuni** was a Vaishnava scholar and acharya.

02 Bhakti in Maharashtra and the North

Bhakti took root in Maharashtra from the 13th century and spread through the Hindi belt, Bengal, Gujarat and Assam from the 14th. Its saints, many of them artisans and peasants, preached in the regional languages and opened salvation to every caste.

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- **Saguna** saints, such as Tulsidas, Surdas and Chaitanya, worshipped god with form, as Rama or Krishna, and stayed within Hindu tradition; **nirguna** saints, such as Kabir, Ravidas and Nanak, worshipped a formless god and rejected idols, caste and ritual.
- The nirguna saints drew on Vaishnava bhakti, the **Nath Panthi** yogis of Gorakhnath and the Sufis.

The Varkari saints of Maharashtra

- The **Varkari** movement centred on the shrine of **Vithoba** (Vitthala), a form of Krishna, at **Pandharpur**; its saints rejected ritual and renunciation, preferred family life and honest work, and made Marathi a literary language.

SAINT	REGION	CENTURY	LANGUAGE	TEXT	KEY IDEA
Jnaneshwar (Jnanadeva)	Nevasa, Alandi	13th (c. 1275–1296)	Marathi	**Jnaneshwari** (1290), a commentary on the Gita; Amritanubhava	Laid the foundation of Varkari bhakti; samadhi at Alandi
Namdev	Pandharpur; later Punjab	13th to 14th (c. 1270–1350)	Marathi, Hindi	Abhangas; hymns in the Guru Granth Sahib	Tailor; remembered as a nirguna saint in the north
Chokhamela	Pandharpur	14th	Marathi	Abhangas	Mahar ("untouchable") saint
Eknath	Paithan	16th (1533–1599)	Marathi	Bharud songs; Eknathi Bhagavat	Householder saint; worship needs no withdrawal from the world
Tukaram	Dehu, near Pune	17th (c. 1608–1650)	Marathi	**Abhangas**, collected in the Gatha	Shudra trader; kirtans to Vithoba
Ramdas	Maharashtra	17th (1608–1681)	Marathi	**Dasbodh**	Devotee of Rama; spiritual guide of Shivaji

- **Tukaram** (c. 1608–1650) lived through the reigns of **Jahangir** (1605–1627) and Shah Jahan, and was a contemporary of Shivaji.
- Other Varkari saints were **Sena** (a barber), Gora (a potter), Savata (a gardener), Narahari (a goldsmith), **Janabai** (a maid in Namdev's house) and, later, Bahinabai, a disciple of Tukaram.

The nirguna sants of the north

SAINT	REGION	CENTURY	LANGUAGE	TEXT	KEY IDEA
Ramananda	Prayag, Banaras	14th to 15th	**Hindi**	Founded the Ramanandi order (no text surely his)	Rama bhakti open to all castes; disciples cooked and ate together
Kabir	Banaras	15th	Hindi (sant bhasha)	**Bijak**; Kabir Granthavali; verses in the Adi Granth	Weaver; one God of Hindus and Muslims; against idols, caste and ritual

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SAINT	REGION	CENTURY	LANGUAGE	TEXT	KEY IDEA
Ravidas (Raidas)	Banaras	15th to 16th	Hindi	Hymns in the Guru Granth Sahib	Cobbler; equality before God
Guru Nanak	Punjab	1469–1539	Punjabi	Hymns in the Adi Granth (Japji)	One formless God; nam, sangat, langar
Dadu Dayal	Gujarat, Rajasthan	1544–1603	Hindi	Dadu Bani	Nipakh (non-sectarian) path; Dadupanth

- **Ramananda**, at first a follower of Ramanuja's school, was the first bhakti saint to preach in **Hindi**; he made Rama the object of devotion, and his disciples by tradition included Kabir, Ravidas, Sena, Dhanna and Pipa.
- **Kabir**, raised by a Muslim weaver (julaha) family in Banaras, named God Rama, Hari, Allah and Sahib alike; the **Bijak** of the Kabirpanth is the best-known collection of his teachings, and **Dadu Dayal** did not compose it.
- **Guru Nanak** (1469–1539) was preaching when Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi in 1526; Dadu Dayal was born in 1544, and Tyagaraja lived from 1767 to 1847.

◆ PRELIMS FACT SAINTS AND THEIR TRADES

- **Namdev**: tailor (shimpi). **Kabir**: weaver (julaha). **Ravidas**: cobbler. **Sena**: barber.
- Sadhana: butcher. Dhanna: Jat peasant of Rajasthan. Narahari: goldsmith. Gora: potter. Chokhamela: Mahar. Tukaram: shudra trader.
- Guru Nanak was a Khatri, from a trading caste; his father was a village accountant.

Saguna bhakti: Rama and Krishna

SAINT	REGION	CENTURY	LANGUAGE	TEXT	KEY IDEA
Jayadeva	Bengal	12th	Sanskrit	**Gita Govinda**	Love of Radha and Krishna
Vidyapati	Mithila	14th to 15th	Maithili	Padavali songs	Radha-Krishna songs, taken up in Bengal; hymns to Shiva
Narsinh Mehta	Junagadh, Gujarat	15th	Gujarati	"Vaishnava jan to"	Krishna; true Vaishnavas feel others' pain
Sankaradeva	Assam	15th to 16th (1449–1568)	Assamese, Brajavali	**Kirtana-ghosha**	**Ekasarana Dharma**; satras and namghars
Surdas	Braj, Agra	16th	Brajbhasha	**Sursagar**	Krishna's childhood; disciple of Vallabha by tradition
Mirabai	Merta, Mewar	16th	Rajasthani, Brajbhasha	Bhajans	Krishna as her divine husband
Tulsidas	Banaras	16th (Akbar's reign)	**Awadhi**	**Ramcharitmanas**	Rama as the Supreme Being

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SAINT	REGION	CENTURY	LANGUAGE	TEXT	KEY IDEA
Raskhan	Braj	16th to 17th	Brajbhasha	**Prem Vatika**, Sujan Raskhan	Pathan devotee of Krishna

- **Raskhan** (Sayyid Ibrahim), a Pathan who became a devotee of Krishna in Braj, composed the **Prem Vatika**, poems on Krishna; by Pushtimarga tradition he was a disciple of Vallabha's son Vitthalnath.
- Bihari, the poet of the **Satsai**, wrote at the court of Mirza Raja Jai Singh of Amber in the 17th century, and the **Sursagar** is by Surdas.
- **Mirabai** of the Rathor house of Merta was married to Bhoj Raj, son of **Rana Sanga** of Mewar; some traditions name Raidas as her guru.
- **Chaitanya** (Gauranga) popularised sankirtan, revived Krishna worship at Vrindavan and spent his last years at **Puri**, honoured by the Gajapati king Prataparudra; his biography, the Chaitanya Charitamrita, is by Krishnadas Kaviraj.
- **Sankaradeva** devised **Borgeet** songs, the **Ankia Naat** plays and the dance **Sattriya**, which was recognised as a classical dance in 2000; the Koch king Nara Narayan supported him.

Saints of Karnataka and Kashmir, and the Carnatic composers

SAINT	REGION	CENTURY	LANGUAGE	TEXT	KEY IDEA
Akka Mahadevi	Karnataka	12th	Kannada	Vachanas	Shiva as Chennamallikarjuna; Virashaiva
Lal Ded (Lalleshwari)	Kashmir	14th	Kashmiri	Vakhs	Shaiva mystic; influenced Nund Rishi
Annamacharya	Tallapaka, Tirupati	15th (1408–1503)	Telugu	**Sankirtanas**	Praise of **Venkateshwara** of Tirumala
Purandaradasa	Vijayanagara	16th (c. 1484–1564)	Kannada	Dasa songs (keertanas)	Father of Carnatic music; follower of Madhva
Tyagaraja	Thiruvaiyaru, Thanjavur	18th to 19th (1767–1847)	Telugu	**Kritis**, the Pancharatna Kritis	Praise of **Rama**; created new ragas

- Most of **Tyagaraja**'s kritis are in praise of **Rama**, not Krishna, and he created several new ragas; **Annamacharya** sang of Venkateshwara three centuries earlier, so the two were not contemporaries.
- Annamacharya is credited with some 32,000 sankirtanas, preserved on copper plates at Tirumala; Purandaradasa set raga Mayamalavagowla as the first lesson for beginners.

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PRELIMS TRAP SAINTS AND THE RULERS OF THEIR TIME

- **Guru Nanak**: the last Lodis and Babur; his Babarvani hymns recall Babur's invasion.
- **Vallabhacharya**: Krishnadeva Raya of Vijayanagara (by his followers' tradition). **Chaitanya**: Husain Shah of Bengal and Prataparudra Gajapati of Odisha.
- **Tulsidas** and **Dadu Dayal**: Akbar. **Tukaram**: Jahangir and Shah Jahan, not Akbar or Aurangzeb.
- **Nimbarka** lived centuries before Akbar. **Kabir** (15th century) died long before Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi (1564–1624) was born, so Sirhindi could not have influenced him.
- **Annamacharya** (15th century) and **Tyagaraja** (1767–1847) were three centuries apart.

03 The Sufi Movement

- **Sufism** (tasawwuf) is the mystical side of Islam: Sufis sought God through love (ishq), devotion and inner purity, and saw God as the beloved and themselves as lovers.
- Sufis were organised in **silsilahs**, chains of masters (**pir**, shaikh) and disciples (**murid**); the pir lived in a **khanqah** (hospice) and named a **khalifa** to succeed him, and his tomb (**dargah**) drew pilgrims on his death anniversary (**urs**).
- The **ba-shara** orders obeyed the sharia; the **be-shara**, such as the wandering qalandars, did not.
- Al-Hujwiri (Data Ganj Bakhsh), author of the **Kashf-ul-Mahjub**, the earliest Persian treatise on Sufism, died at Lahore in the 1070s; the organised orders spread in India from the late 12th century (Chapter 06).

PRELIMS FACT SUFI PRACTICES

- **Zikr**: constant remembrance and repetition of God's name.
- **Sama**: musical recital of holy songs to arouse a state of ecstasy (wajd); **qawwali** grew out of it.
- **Chilla**: a forty-day retreat of severe ascetic exercises in a lonely place.
- Meditation and **control of breath**, drawn partly from yoga; the yoga text Amritakunda was rendered into Persian.

The silsilahs

ORDER	FOUNDER IN INDIA	CENTRE	STANCE ON STATE AND SAMA
Chishti (from Chisht, near Herat)	**Muinuddin Chishti**, at Ajmer after 1192	Ajmer, Delhi, Ajodhan; later Gulbarga	Kept away from court and refused state grants; upheld **sama** and used Hindavi verse
Suhrawardi (Shihabuddin Suhrawardi, Baghdad)	**Bahauddin Zakariya**	Multan, Uch; Sind and Punjab	Accepted grants and offices (Shaikh-ul-Islam under Iltutmish); cooler towards sama
Firdausi (branch of the Kubrawi)	Badruddin Samarqandi; made famous by **Sharfuddin Yahya Maneri**	Bihar Sharif	Stood apart from the court; Maneri took a khanqah grant only when Muhammad bin Tughluq pressed it on him

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ORDER	FOUNDER IN INDIA	CENTRE	STANCE ON STATE AND SAMA
Qadiri (Abdul Qadir Jilani, Baghdad)	**Shaikh Niamatullah** and **Makhdum Muhammad Jilani**, Uch, 1482	Uch, Lahore	Favoured by the Mughals; Miyan Mir guided Dara Shikoh and Jahanara; held Wahdat-ul-Wujud
Shattari	Shah Abdullah Shattari (15th century)	Mandu, Gwalior	Close to the court: Muhammad Ghaus Gwaliori taught Humayun
Naqshbandi (Bahauddin Naqshband, Bukhara)	**Khwaja Baqi Billah**, in Akbar's reign	Delhi, Sirhind	Orthodox; pressed the court to enforce the sharia; opposed sama and tomb visits
Rishi	**Nund Rishi** (Shaikh Nuruddin Wali), 14th to 15th century	Kashmir (Charar-e-Sharif)	Ascetic order close to the people; shaped by Lal Ded's Shaiva mysticism

The Chishtis

- **Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti** (d. c. 1235–1236), called Gharib Nawaz, founded the Chishti order in India at Ajmer and held devotional music (**sama**) to be a way of coming close to God.
- The order takes its name from **Chisht**, a town near Herat in Afghanistan; there is no village called Chisht in Ajmer.
- The Chishti chain ran **Muinuddin** (Ajmer), **Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki** (Delhi, under Iltutmish), **Fariduddin Ganj-i-Shakar** or Baba Farid (Ajodhan, now Pakpattan; verses in the Adi Granth), **Nizamuddin Auliya** (Delhi, d. 1325) and **Nasiruddin Chiragh-i-Dehli** (d. 1356).
- **Nasiruddin Chiragh-i-Dehli** ("Lamp of Delhi") was a disciple of Nizamuddin Auliya, and Amir Khusrau, another disciple, lies buried at Nizamuddin's dargah.
- Nizamuddin kept away from the court of Ghiyasuddin Tughluq; his reply to the Sultan, "Hunuz Dilli dur ast" (Delhi is still far off), is a well-known tradition.
- **Muhammad Banda Nawaz Gesudaraz** (1321–1422), a disciple of Nasiruddin, left Delhi before Timur's invasion and settled at **Gulbarga** under the Bahmanis.
- **Shaikh Salim Chishti** (1478–1572) of Sikri was a contemporary of Akbar, who named his son Salim (Jahangir) after him; he died long before Aurangzeb was born (1618).

The Naqshbandis and the Qadiris

- **Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi** (1564–1624), disciple of Baqi Billah and called **Mujaddid Alf-i-Sani**, lived under Akbar and Jahangir, not under Ibrahim Lodi; Jahangir imprisoned him in Gwalior fort in 1619.
- Sirhindi taught **Wahdat-ul-Shuhud** (unity of appearance) against Ibn Arabi's **Wahdat-ul-Wujud** (unity of being), and his letters (Maktubat) asked the nobles to restore the jizya.
- The **Qadiri** order was first introduced in India by **Shaikh Niamatullah** and **Makhdum Muhammad Jilani**, who set up a khanqah at **Uch** in 1482; **Dara Shikoh** was a Qadiri disciple and wrote the Majma-ul-Bahrain on Sufism and Vedanta.

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◆ PRELIMS TRAP SUFI NAMES THAT LOOK ALIKE

- Baba Farid and the other early Chishtis also held sama lawful; the saint remembered for upholding devotional music as a way to God is **Muinuddin Chishti**, founder of the order in India.
- **Shah Alam Bukhari** (d. 1475) was a Suhrawardi saint of **Ahmedabad**, guide of Sultan Mahmud Begada; his tomb is the Shah Alam Roza. **Gesudaraz** was a Chishti of Gulbarga.
- The Naqshbandi order was founded by Bahauddin Naqshband at Bukhara and brought to India by Baqi Billah; Sirhindi spread it.
- **Salim Chishti** (Akbar's time) and **Gesudaraz** (Bahmani times) are both Chishtis and are often confused.

04 The Sikh Gurus

GURU	DATES AS GURU	CONTRIBUTION
Guru Nanak	1469–1539 (life)	Born at Talwandi (Nankana Sahib); preached one formless God; began the **langar** and **sangat**; settled at Kartarpur on the Ravi
Guru Angad	1539–1552	Standardised the **Gurmukhi** script; expanded the langar; Mall Akhara for physical training
Guru Amar Das	1552–1574	Divided the community into 22 **manjis**; Goindwal baoli; preached against sati and purdah; Akbar ate in his langar by tradition
Guru Ram Das	1574–1581	Founded **Ramdaspur** (Amritsar, 1577), on land granted by Akbar by tradition (other accounts say it was bought); composed the Lavan of the Anand Karaj
Guru Arjan Dev	1581–1606	Compiled the **Adi Granth** (1604); completed the Harmandir Sahib; accused of helping Prince Khusrau, died in Mughal custody at Lahore (1606) on Jahangir's orders
Guru Hargobind	1606–1644	Wore two swords for **miri and piri**; built the **Akal Takht**; imprisoned at Gwalior by Jahangir; fought Shah Jahan's forces
Guru Har Rai	1644–1661	Sheltered Dara Shikoh (1658); his elder son Ram Rai was sent to Aurangzeb's court
Guru Har Krishan	1661–1664	Child Guru; died of smallpox at Delhi, where Gurdwara Bangla Sahib stands
Guru Tegh Bahadur	1664–1675	Founded Anandpur Sahib; travelled to Bihar and Assam; beheaded at Chandni Chowk, Delhi, on Aurangzeb's orders (1675)
Guru Gobind Singh	1675–1708	Born at Patna; founded the **Khalsa** (Anandpur, 1699); compiled the final Granth; commissioned Banda Bahadur; died at Nanded

- **Guru Arjan Dev**, who succeeded his father Guru Ram Das in 1581, compiled the **Adi Granth** in 1604 with Bhai Gurdas as scribe; it includes hymns of Kabir, Namdev, Ravidas and Baba Farid.
- Guru Nanak's teaching rests on three precepts: **nam japna** (remembering God's name), **kirat karna** (honest work) and **vand chhakna** (sharing earnings); his travels are called udasis and his companion Mardana played the rabab.
- The **masands** collected **dasvandh**, a tenth of a Sikh's income, for the Guru; Guru Gobind Singh abolished them in 1699.

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- At the **Khalsa**'s founding on Baisakhi 1699 the **Panj Piyare** received the pahul (initiation by the double-edged sword); the Khalsa keep the five Ks: kesh, kangha, kara, kachera and kirpan.
- Before his death at Nanded in 1708 Guru Gobind Singh declared the scripture, the **Guru Granth Sahib**, the eternal Guru; the writings ascribed to him were gathered after his death into the **Dasam Granth**.
- **Banda Singh Bahadur**, commissioned at Nanded in 1708, defeated the Mughals at Chappar Chiri (1710), took Sirhind, made Lohgarh his capital and issued coins; he was executed at Delhi in 1716 under Farrukhsiyar.

◆ PRELIMS TRAP WHO DID WHAT AMONG THE GURUS

- **Gurmukhi**: Guru Angad, the second Guru, not Guru Arjan.
- **Manji** system: Guru Amar Das. **Miri and piri**: Guru Hargobind. **Adi Granth**: Guru Arjan.
- **Dal Khalsa**: the combined army of the misls, formed at Amritsar on Baisakhi 1748, forty years after the last Guru's death.
- **Banda Bahadur**: made military leader by Guru Gobind Singh in 1708, 33 years after Guru Tegh Bahadur's death.

05 Terms

TERM	MEANING
Saguna, nirguna	God with form and attributes (Rama, Krishna); God without form or attributes
Prapatti	Complete surrender to God, taught by Ramanuja
Abhanga	Marathi devotional verse of the Varkari saints
Vachana	Short Kannada prose poem of the Virashaiva saints
Sankirtan, kirtan	Group singing of God's name, made popular by Chaitanya
Satra, namghar	Vaishnava monastery and village prayer hall of Sankaradeva's order in Assam
Pir, murid, khalifa	Sufi master; disciple; chosen successor
Khanqah, dargah	Sufi hospice; tomb-shrine of a saint
Silsilah	Sufi order, a chain of masters and disciples
Sama, zikr, chilla	Devotional music; repetition of God's name; forty-day retreat
Fana	Annihilation of the self in God
Urs, ziyarat	Death anniversary of a saint; pilgrimage to his tomb
Wahdat-ul-Wujud, Wahdat-ul-Shuhud	Unity of being (Ibn Arabi); unity of appearance (Sirhindi)
Langar, sangat, pangat	Community kitchen; congregation; sitting in rows to eat, whatever one's caste
Manji, masand, dasvandh	Preaching district (Amar Das); the Guru's agent; one-tenth of income given to the Guru

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TERM	MEANING
Miri, piri	Temporal and spiritual authority (Guru Hargobind's two swords)
Takht	Seat of Sikh temporal authority; there are five, the first the Akal Takht at Amritsar
Pahul, Khalsa	Initiation by the double-edged sword; the order of initiated Sikhs (1699)

✦ Prelims Quick Revision

- **Nathamuni**: first Sri Vaishnava acharya; compiled the Alvars' 4,000 hymns (Nalayira Divya Prabandham).
- **Acharyas in order**: Shankara (Advaita), Ramanuja (Vishishtadvaita), Madhva (Dvaita), Vallabha (Shuddhadvaita, Pushtimarga), Chaitanya.
- **Ramanuja**: devotion and prapatti the best means of salvation; Statue of Equality, Hyderabad (2022).
- **Siddhas and Lingayats**: Siddhas monotheistic and against idols; Lingayats rejected caste and questioned rebirth.
- **Varkaris**: Vithoba of Pandharpur; Jnaneshwar, Namdev, Eknath, Tukaram (under Jahangir and Shah Jahan).
- **Ramananda**: first bhakti saint to preach in Hindi; teacher of Kabir and Ravidas by tradition.
- **Trades**: Namdev tailor, Kabir weaver, Ravidas cobbler, Sena barber.
- **Bijak**: Kabir's teachings, kept by the Kabirpanth; Dadu Dayal (1544–1603) founded the Dadupanth.
- **Prem Vatika**: Krishna poems of Raskhan; Sursagar of Surdas; Ramcharitmanas of Tulsidas (Awadhi).
- **Annamacharya and Tyagaraja**: Venkateshwara (15th century); Rama and new ragas (1767–1847).
- **Chishti**: named after Chisht near Herat; Muinuddin Chishti at Ajmer upheld sama.
- **Sufi practices**: zikr, sama, chilla, meditation with breath control.
- **Qadiri**: brought to Uch (1482) by Niamatullah and Makhdum Muhammad Jilani; Dara Shikoh a disciple.
- **Naqshbandi**: Baqi Billah and Ahmad Sirhindi (1564–1624), under Akbar and Jahangir.
- **Sikh Gurus**: Gurmukhi Angad, manjis Amar Das, Adi Granth Arjan (1604), miri-piri Hargobind, Khalsa Gobind Singh (1699).
- **Banda Bahadur**: commissioned by Guru Gobind Singh (1708); executed 1716.

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Previous Year Questions

2022

The world's 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 the teachings of Ramanuja?

- **a** The best means of salvation was devotion.
- **b** Vedas are eternal, self-existent and wholly authoritative.
- **c** Logical arguments were essential means for the highest bliss.
- **d** Salvation was to be obtained through meditation.

Answer: (a). Ramanuja's Vishishtadvaita held that loving devotion (bhakti) to Vishnu, with complete self-surrender (prapatti), was the best path to salvation.

2022

With reference to Indian history, consider the following pairs:
Historical person — Known as
1. Aryadeva — Jaina scholar
2. Dignaga — Buddhist scholar
3. Nathamuni — Vaishnava scholar
How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

- **a** None of the pairs
- **b** Only one pair
- **c** Only two pairs
- **d** All three pairs

Answer: (c). Dignaga was a Buddhist logician and Nathamuni the first Sri Vaishnava acharya who compiled the Alvar hymns, but Aryadeva was a Buddhist Madhyamaka thinker.

2019

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 lived centuries before Akbar, and Kabir (15th century) died long before the Naqshbandi Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi (1564–1624) was born, so both statements are wrong.

2018

With reference to cultural history of India, consider the following statements:
1. Most of the Tyagaraja Kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
2. Tyagaraja created several new ragas.
3. Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
4. Annamacharya kirtanas are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b). Annamacharya, the fifteenth-century Tallapaka poet, sang of Venkateshwara, and Tyagaraja (1767–1847), a Rama devotee, created new ragas, so they were not contemporaries.

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2016 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). The Tamil Siddhas believed in one God and attacked idol worship, and Basava's Lingayats (Virashaivas) questioned rebirth and rejected caste hierarchy, so both are correct.

2014 Consider the following statements:
1. 'Bijak' is a composition of the teachings of Saint Dadu Dayal.
2. The Philosophy of Pushti Marg was propounded by Madhvacharya.
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). The Bijak collects Kabir's teachings and Pushti Marg was founded by Vallabhacharya, while Madhvacharya taught Dvaita, so both statements are wrong.

2013 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). Guru Nanak (1469–1539) was preaching when Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi in 1526; Dadu Dayal was born in 1544 and Tyagaraja lived from 1767 to 1847.

2012 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). Sufis practised meditation with breath control, solitary austerities such as the forty-day chilla, and sama (devotional music) to induce ecstasy, so all three are correct.

2010 Among the following, who was not a proponent of bhakti cult?

a Nagarjuna | b Tukaram | c Tyagaraja | d Vallabhacharya

Answer: (a). Nagarjuna was the Madhyamika Buddhist philosopher, while Tukaram, Tyagaraja and Vallabhacharya were bhakti saints.

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2006 Bhakta Tukaram was a contemporary of which Mughal Emperor?

a Babar | b Akbar | c Jahangir | d Aurangzeb

Answer: (c). Tukaram (c. 1608–1650) lived through the reigns of Jahangir and Shah Jahan, and of the options only Jahangir fits.

2004 Which one of the following sequences indicates the correct chronological order?

a Shankaracharya - Ramanuja - Chaitanya
b Ramanuja - Shankaracharya - Chaitanya
c Ramanuja - Chaitanya - Shankaracharya
d Shankaracharya - Chaitanya - Ramanuja

Answer: (a). Shankaracharya lived around 788–820, Ramanuja in the eleventh and twelfth centuries and Chaitanya from 1486 to 1534.

2004 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). Banda Bahadur was commissioned by Guru Gobind Singh, so statement 1 is false, and Guru Arjan Dev succeeded Guru Ram Das in 1581, so (b) is the only option that keeps 2 and drops 1.

2002 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, the teacher of Kabir and Ravidas, was the first to preach bhakti in Hindi in north India.

2002 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). Nasiruddin Chiragh-i-Dehli was Nizamuddin's disciple and the Qadiri order came with Niamatullah and Muhammad Jilani; Sirhindi lived under Akbar and Jahangir, and Salim Chishti died in 1572.

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2001 Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:
List I (Bhakti Saint)
A. Namdev
B. Kabir
C. Ravidas
D. Sena
List II (Profession)
1. Barber
2. Weaver
3. Tailor
4. Cobbler

a A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4
b A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1
c A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4
d A-2, B-3, C-4, D-1

Answer: (b). Namdev was a tailor (chhipi), Kabir a weaver, Ravidas a cobbler and Sena a barber, reflecting the artisan base of nirguna bhakti.

1997 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). Moinuddin Chishti established the order in India at Ajmer, but the order is named after Chisht, a town near Herat in Afghanistan.

1996 Prem Vatika, poems on the life of Krishna, was composed by

a Bihari
b Surdas
c Raskhan
d Kabir

Answer: (c). Prem Vatika is a Braj collection of Krishna poems by Raskhan, the sixteenth-century Pathan devotee of Krishna.

1996 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 (devotional music) as a path to closeness with God.

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1996

Which one of the following pairs is correctly matched?

a Guru Amar Das ... Miri and Piri

b Guru Arjan Dev ... Adi Granth

c Guru Ram Das ... Dal Khalsa

d Guru Gobind Singh ... Manji

Answer: (b). Guru Arjan Dev compiled the Adi Granth in 1604; Miri-Piri is linked with Guru Hargobind and the manji system with Guru Amar Das.

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