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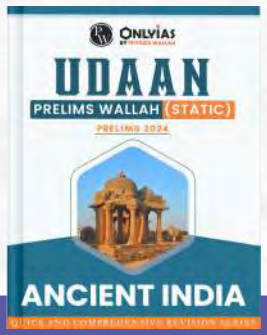
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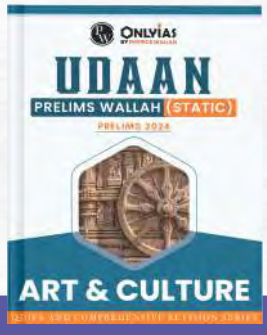
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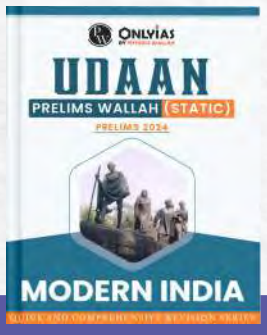
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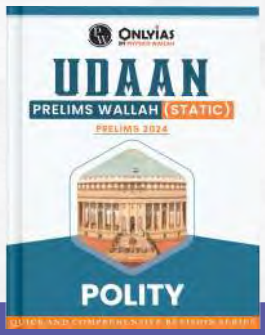
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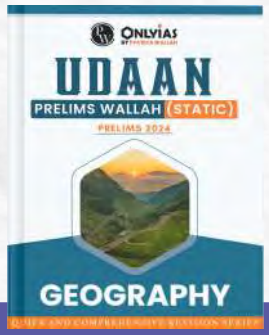
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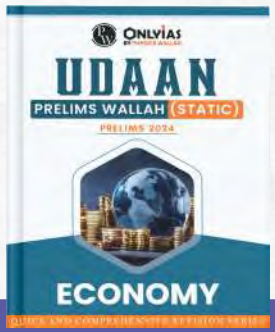
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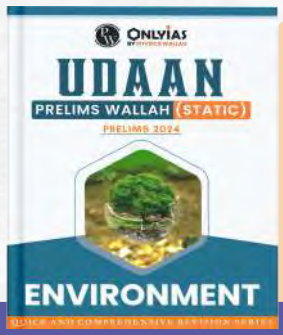
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A highly skilled professional team of PW ONLY IAS works arduously to ensure that the students receive the best content for the UPSC exam.

A plethora of UPSC study materials are available in the market, but PW ONLY IAS professionals continuously work to provide supreme-quality study material for our UPSC students.

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This book adopts a multi-faceted approach to mastering and understanding the concepts and equipping the students with the knowledge for this competitive exam.

The main objective of the study material is to provide short, crisp, concise and high-quality content to our students.

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- Holistic coverage of topics, strictly as per exam syllabus.
- One-stop solution for prelims based, subject-wise coverage.
- Diagrams and Timelines for quick understanding and revision.
- Quick Revision Module for the UPSC Prelims examination.
- Every topic is structured in headings and bullets for easy understanding of the students.

CONTENTS

1. EARLY MEDIEVAL PERIOD 1

Introduction 1

- The Pala Empire (750–1161 AD) 1
- Gurjara Pratiharas (Agnikula Rajputs) (8th–11th Century AD) 2
- The Rashtrakutas (753-975 AD) 2

Dynasties of the North 3

- Chandellas of Jejakabhukti (Bundelkhand) (9th- 13th century AD) 3
- Paramaras of Malwa (9th-14th century AD) 4
- Tomaras of Dhillika (Delhi) (8th-12th century AD) 4
- Chahamanas or Chauhans of Sakambhari (6th- 12th century AD) 4
- Gahadvalas of Kannauj (11th-12th century AD) 5
- Kalachuris of Tripuri (10th- 12th century AD) 5
- Chalukyas (Solanki) of Gujarat (950-1300 AD) 5
- Kashmir 5

Dynasties of East and North-East 5

- Assam 5
- Varmans and Senas (East Bengal) 5
- Kalinga (Orissa) 6

Dynasties of the Deccan and South India 6

- Chalukyas of Kalyani (10th-12th century AD) 6
- Yadavas of Devagiri 6
- Kakatiyas (950-1323 AD) 6
- Chola Empire (later half of 9th-13th century) 7
- Hoysalas (10th-14th Centuries) 9
- Later Pandyas 9

Advent of Islam in India 12

- Ghaznavids in India 12
- Ghurids in India 12

2. DELHI SULTANATE 14

- Introduction 14

Slave or Mamluk Dynasty (1206-1290 AD) 14

- Qutub-ud-din Aibak (1206-1210 AD) 14
- Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (1210-1236 AD) 15
- Razia Sultan (1236-1240 AD) 15
- Balban (1266-1287 AD) 15

Khalji Dynasty (1290 AD - 1320 AD) 16

- Jalaluddin Khalji (1290-1296 AD) 16
- Alauddin Khalji (1296-1316 AD) 16

Tughlaq Dynasty (1320 AD - 1413 AD) 17

- Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (1320-1325 AD) 17
- Mohammad Bin Tughlaq (1325-1351 AD) 18
- Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351-1388 AD) 18

Sayyid Dynasty (1414 AD-1451 AD) 19

Lodi Dynasty (1451-1526 AD) 19

- Bahlul Lodi (1451-1489 AD) 19
- Sikandar Lodi (1489-1517 AD) 19
- Ibrahim Lodi (1517-1526 AD) 19

Life In Delhi Sultanate 20

3. BAHAMANI AND VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE 23

- Introduction 23
- Rise of the New Kingdoms 23

Bahmani Kingdom (1347-1527 AD) 23

- Rulers and Their Contributions 23

Vijayanagar Empire (1336-1650 AD) 25

- Sources to Study Vijayanagar Empire 25
- Account of Foreign Visitors 25
- Origin and Expansion 25
- Vijayanagar – Bahmani Conflict 26
- Important Rulers and Their Contributions 26
- Administration of Vijayanagar Empire 28
- Nayaka System 28

- Society 29
- Economy 29
- Architecture of Hampi/Vijayanagar 29

4. MUGHAL EMPIRE 31

Babur (1526-1530 AD) 31
- Introduction 31
- Major conquests in India 31
- Military and Warfare 32
- Architecture 32
- Literature 32
- Religious views 32

Humayun (1530-1540 & 1555-1556 AD) ... 32
- Introduction 32
- Major conquests in India 32
- Humayun on exile (1540-1555) 32
- Humayun's Rule in India 32

Sher Shah Suri (Sur Empire) (1540-1555 AD) 32
- Introduction 32
- Conquests 32
- Administration 33
- Trade 33

Akbar (1556-1605 AD) 33
- Introduction 33
- Major conquests in India 34
- Central Administration 34
- Provincial administration 34
- Land revenue system 35
- Methods of Assessment used during Akbar's Reign 35
- Mansabdari system 35
- Rajput Policy 35
- Architecture 36
- Religious views 36
- Literature 36
- Paintings 36

Jahangir (1605-1627 AD) 37
- Introduction 37
- Military Campaigns/Conquests 37
- Administration 37
- Architecture 37
- Literature 38
- Religious views 38

Shah Jahan (1628-1658 AD) 38
- Introduction 38
- Major events/battles in India 38
- Administration 38
- Religious Policy 38
- Architecture 38
- Literature 38

Aurangzeb (1679 - 1707 AD) 39
- Introduction 39
- Major events/battles 39
- Religious views 39
- Nobles 39
- Relation with East India Company 39
- Architecture 39
- Art and Literature 39

Later Mughals 40
- Bahadur Shah I (1707-1712 AD) 40
- Jahandar Shah (1712-1713 AD) 40
- Farruk Siyar (1713-1719 AD) 40
- Muhammad Shah (Rangeela) (1719-1748 AD) 40
- Alamgir II (1754-1759 AD) 41
- Shah Alam II (1759-1806 AD) 41
- Akbar II (1806-1837 AD) 41
- Bahadur Shah II (1837-1857 AD) 41
- Reasons for the decline of Mughals 41

5. THE MARATHAS 42
- Introduction 42

Shivaji (1627–1680 AD) 42
- Introduction 42
- Military Conquests 42
- Confrontation Against Bijapur 42
- Shivaji and the Mughals 42
- Coronation and Deccan Campaigns 43
- Last Days of Shivaji 43
- Shahu's Reign(1707-1749 AD) and Peshwa's Rise ... 43

Maratha Administration 44
- Central Government 44
- Other Points Related to their Functioning 44
- Provincial Government 44
- Revenue Administration 44
- Military Organisation 45
- Judicial System 45

Rule of the Peshwas (1713-1818 AD) 45
- Balaji Viswanath (1713–1720 AD) 45
- Baji Rao I (1720–1740 AD) 45
- Expeditions/Conquests 45
- Balaji Baji Rao (1740–1761) 45

Third Battle of Panipat (1761) 46
- Background 46
- Course of War 46

The Anglo-Maratha Wars 46
- Outcome of the Third Anglo-Maratha War 47

Maratha Administration under Peshwas (1714-1818 AD) 47

6. BHAKTI AND SUFI TRADITIONS 49

Bhakti Movement 49
- Sources to Study the Bhakti Movement 49
- Causes for the Birth of Bhakti Movement 49
- Main Features of the Bhakti Movement 49
- Early Proponents 49
- Attitude towards Caste 49
- Literature 50
- Women Devotees 50
- Mixing of Little and Great Traditions 50
- VEERASHAIVA/LINGAYAT Tradition 50
- Tantrism 51
- Religious Ferment in North India 51

Proponents of Bhakti Movement 51
- Adi Shankaracharya (788-820 AD) 51
- Ramanuja (1017-1137 AD) 51
- Namdeva (1270-1350 AD) 51
- Jnaneshwar (1275-1296 AD) 52
- Ramananda (1400-1470 AD) 52
- Kabir (1398-1448 AD) 52
- Baba Guru Nanak (1469-1538 AD) 52
- Vallabhacharya (1479-1531 AD) 53
- Chaitanya (1485-1533 AD) 53
- Shankaradeva (1499-1569 AD) 53
- Tulsi Das (1532-1623 AD) 53
- Tukaram (1608-1649 AD) 53
- Guru Ramdas (1608-1681 AD) 53
- Janabai (1258-1350 AD) 53
- Mirabai (1498-1546 AD) 53
- Sur Das 53
- Bahinabai or Bahina (1628-1700 AD) 53

Sufi Movement 54
- Introduction 54
- Origin of Sufism in India 54
- Sources to Study the Sufi Movement 54
- Main Principles of Sufism [UPSC 2012] 54
- Orders of Sufism (Silsilah) 54
- Chishtiya Order 54
- Life in the Chishti Khanqah 55
- Chishti Devotion 55
- Languages and Communication 55
- Sufis and the State 55
- Qadriya Order 56
- Suharwardi Order 56
- Naqshbandi Order 56
- Bhakti and Sufi Interaction 56

7. THROUGH THE EYES OF TRAVELLERS 58

Al-Biruni (Kitab-ul-Hind) 58
- Introduction 58
- Translations 58
- Kitab-ul-Hind (Tahqiq-i-Hind/History of India) 58
- Al-Biruni's Description of the Caste System 58

Ibn Battuta (Rihla) 58
- Introduction 58
- Service in Delhi and Exploration of South Asia and Beyond 58
- About Cities 59
- The Prosperity of Towns 59

François Bernier (Travels in the Mughal Empire) 59
- Introduction 59
- Comparing East and West (Bernier's Observations) 59
- Impact and Influence 59
- Complex Social Reality 59

Table on foreign travellers 60

1 Early Medieval Period

INTRODUCTION

- The phrase "early medieval" refers to the **transitional period** between the ancient and the medieval periods. It was distinguished by the **emergence of numerous states** at the local levels.
- After the **death of Harsha (647 AD)**, **Lalitaditya (Karkota dynasty) of Kashmir** briefly controlled Punjab, **Kanauj**, and parts of Bengal, but his power diminished with the rise of other kingdoms.
  - **Rajatarangini by Kalhana** claims that **Yasovarman** (8th century, **Varman dynasty** of Kannauj) was defeated by Lalitaditya.

Martand sun temple, Anantnag (Kashmir), was built by Lalitaditya (8th century AD)

- **Several large states emerged in North India**, **Deccan**, and **South India**. However, unlike the empires of the Guptas and Harsha, these North Indian kingdoms were unable to exert control over the entire Ganga valley.
  - There was a **'Tripartite Contest'** between **Pratiharas, Palas and Rashtrakutas** for the **status of Chakravartin** and **control of Kanauj.**

- **Pala Empire:** Dominated **Eastern India (Bengal)** until the 9th century.
- **Pratihara Empire**: Ruled **Western India (Jalore-Rajasthan)** and upper Gangetic valley until the 10th century.
- **Rashtrakuta Empire:** Controlled the **Deccan** and parts of North and South India, serving as a bridge between the regions.

The Pala Empire (750–1161 AD)

The Pala Empire, was **founded** by **Gopala (750–770 AD)** and known as the **"Kingdom of Dharma"** by the Arabs. He founded a Buddhist Mahavihara at **Odantapuri (Bihar).**

Dharmapala (780-810 AD)

He assumed the titles **Parameswara, Parambhattaraka and Maharajadhiraja**.

Extent/Conquest

- **Khalimpur copper plate inscription** mentions the extent of his kingdom covering Bengal, Bihar, parts of Orissa, Nepal, Assam, and momentarily, Kannauj.
- Dharmapala held a **grand assembly at Kannauj** to assert influence and consolidate his power over northern India.

Architecture

- Founded **Vikaramashila monastery** in **Bhagalpur (Bihar)**
- Built a grand vihara at **Somapura (Bangladesh)**

Religious Influence: He patronised **Haribhadra**, a Buddhist philosopher.

Devapala (810–850 AD)

Extent/Conquest: Son of Dharmapala, he extended Pala control eastwards up to **Kamarupa (Assam)**. He **defeated the** Rashtrakuta ruler, **Amoghavarsha**.

Religious Influence: He was also a great **patron of Buddhism** and granted five villages to **Balaputradeva**, the king of the **Sailendra dynasty of Suvarnadipa (Sumatra)**, to maintain a monastery built by him at Nalanda.

Other Rulers

Mahipala I (988-1038 AD) was the son of Vigramapala II who checked the invasion of **Rajendra Chola** beyond the Ganges.

Ramapala (1077–1120 AD) tried to recover the lost glory of the dynasty, but after his death, the presence of Pala dynasty was confined to only a portion of Magadha (Bihar) and continued to exist only for a short period.

Decline of Pala Dynasty

- The slide of the Pala dynasty was accelerated during the rule of **Rajyapala, Gopala III** and **Vigramapala II**.
- The rise of the **Pratiharas** in Jalore under **Mihira Bhoja** and the advance of the **Rashtrakutas** into Pala territories inevitably brought about the decline of the Palas.
- **Vijayasena** of the Sena dynasty expelled the **last ruler Madanapala** (1130–1150 AD) from Bengal and established his dynastic rule.

Trade

- **Trade relations with South-East Asia**: Textiles, Pottery, and Rice were major items.

- **South-east Bengal** was a hub connecting Arab trading settlements to the Malaya peninsula and Indonesian archipelago from the 7th to 11th century.

Art and Architecture

- **Dhiman** and his son **Vitapala** were great painters, sculptors, and bronze statue makers of this period.
- The Pala school of sculptural art was **influenced by Gupta art.**
- **Mahipala I** constructed and repaired several sacred structures at **Saranath, Nalanda** and **Bodh Gaya.**
- Pala era also saw the construction of numerous tanks and channels, reflecting significant public works initiatives.

Literature

- **Text and Philosophy: Agama Shastra** composed by **Gaudapada** (scholar of Advaita Vedanta school); **Nyaya Kundali** by **Sridhar Bhatta.**
- **Buddhist scholars** of Vikramashila and Nalanda universities were **Atisha, Saraha, Tilopa, Dansheel, Dansree, Jinamitra, Muktimitra, Padmanava, Virachan and Silabhadra.**
- **Ramacharitam by Sandhyakar Nandi,** a biography of Pala ruler **Ramapala,** describes how forest chiefs were brought into their alliance through lavish gifts.
- They patronised Sanskrit scholars. **Gaudi-riti** was a **literary style** developed in Sanskrit literature.
- **Chakrapani Datta, Sureshwar Gadadhara Vaidya** and **Jimutavahana** were writers of texts related to **medicine** during the Pala period.
- **Mahipalageet (songs on Mahipala):** It is a set of folk songs that are still popular in the rural areas of Bengal.

Religion

- They were devout Buddhists and promoted **Mahayana Buddhism.** Eminent Buddhist scholar like **Dipankar Srijnana** thrived in Pala's reign, and the University of **Vikramsila** became a major centre for **Tibetan monks**.
- They also supported Brahmins and constructed temples.

The Palas' patronage of education and religion is evident in the support received from foreign kings, including the king of **Java and Sumatra**, who made a request for a college at Nalanda, benefiting international students.

Gurjara Pratiharas (Agnikula Rajputs) (8th–11th Century AD)

Introduction: Founded by **Harichandra** and called **Al-Jurz** by **Arabs**.

Extent/Conquest

- They captured a large part of **Madhyadesh** and **Kanauj** by the **9th century.**
- Initially ruling from **Bhilmal,** they subsequently **shifted their capital to Kanauj**
- The Pratiharas were noted for their opposition to **Arab forces** and their strategic conflicts with the **Palas** and **the Rashtrakutas.**

Important Rulers

Nagabhatta I (730-760 AD) and **Vatsaraja (780-800 AD)** expanded their territories significantly, including regions of **Rajasthan, Malwa, and Gujarat.**

Nagabhatta II (800-833 AD), Vatsraj's son, revived the dynasty and his suzerainty was recognised by rulers of western **Kathiawar, Andhra, Kalinga and Vidarbha. [UPSC 2022]**

- He attacked Kannauj which led to the conflict with Dharmapala. Dharmapala sought assistance from Rashtrakuta king, Govinda III (794-813 AD) which led to the defeat of **Nagabhatta II.**

Mihir Bhoja (836-885 AD), around **836 AD** marked a pivotal point in Pratihara fortunes. **[UPSC 2022]**

  - Bhoja consolidated a vast empire stretching from **Punjab and Kathiawar to Koshal and Kanauj**, with several contemporary powers acknowledging his suzerainty.
  - He was a devotee of **Vishnu** and took the title of '**Adi Varaha'**.
- Bhoja's son **Mahendrapal (AD 885-910)** extended the empire further by adding Magadh and parts of North Bengal.

Decline: **Subsequent weaker rulers** couldn't maintain the vast empire, facing assaults from the **Rashtrakutas**. The decline paved the way for the rise of several new kingdoms like the **Chalukyas, Chandellas, Chahmanas, Gahadawalas, Paramaras, Kalachuris, Tomars and Guhilas**, which became independent as distinct Rajput clans in their own territories.

The Rashtrakutas (753-975 AD)

Background

- They claimed descent from the **Rathikas**, a clan in the Kannada-speaking region, mentioned in the **edicts of Ashoka**.

- The Rashtrakutas, referred to as **Ballahara by the Arabs**, emerged as a significant power around **743 AD** in the **Deccan,** ruling from their capital at **Manyakheta, present-day Malkhed**.
- They are acknowledged in both **Sanskrit** and **Arabic records** as a dominant force in India for nearly two centuries, with Arab travellers describing the Rashtrakuta ruler as **"the king of kings (malik al-muluk)" of al-Hind.**
- Arab accounts, particularly by **Al-Masudi**, offer a lavish description of the **Rashtrakuta kingdom's grandeur.** The immense wealth of the kingdom is attributed to the profit from maritime trade.

Important Rulers

- **Dantivarman** or **Dantidurga (735–756 AD), founder of the dynasty**, conquered several territories including the Gurjara-Pratiharas in Malwa. Dantidurga performed the **Hiranyagarbha** ritual (literally meaning 'golden womb',) to claim kshatriya status.
- **Krishna I (758-773 AD)** succeeded him, who expanded the empire to include regions like present-day Hyderabad and Mysore. He built the **Kailash temple at Ellora.**
- **Dhruv Dharavarsha (779-793 AD)** marked the dynasty's **northern expedition**, defeating prominent rulers like **Vatsaraja (Pratihara king)** and **Dharmapala (Pala king).** He incorporated the symbols of the Ganga and Yamuna into the Rashtrakuta emblem.
- **Govinda III (793-814 AD)** revitalised Rashtrakuta's influence, defeating **Nagabhatta II** of the Pratiharas. He marched up to the **Himalayas** and visited significant cities like **Prayag, Banaras, and Gaya**.

Amoghavarsha I (814–880 AD)

- He was interested in the religious traditions of contemporary India and used to spend his time in the company of Jaina monks. His inscriptions count him among the most prominent **followers of Jainism**.
- He composed one of the earliest **Kannada** literature texts, the **Kavirajamarga**.
- He took the titles Nripatunga, Atishayadhavala, Maharaja-shanda and Vira-Narayana.
- He ended his life by taking **jal-samadhi** in the **Tungabhadra river**.
- The **decline** of the Rashtrakutas began under his reign due to weaker military acumen. Under his successor, Krishna II, the kingdom experienced further decay.

Indra III launched a successful northern campaign against the **Pratihara ruler**, **Mahipala**.

Krishna III seized regions like Kanchi and Tanjore, even overcoming the Cholas and erecting a **victory pillar at Rameshwaram.**

Religion

- The Rashtrakutas were patrons of diverse religions, including **Saivism, Vaishnavism, Sakta cults, and Jainism**.
- The seals have pictures of Garudavahana of Vishnu.
- There are references to Tula-danas gift or offer of gold equal to one's own weight to temple deities.
- They allowed **Muslim traders** to practise and spread Islam in their realm, thereby enhancing **foreign trade.**

Literature

- **Amoghavarsha I** was the author of **Prashnottara Ratnamalika**, a **Sanskrit** work, and **Kavirajamarga**, a **Kannada** work.
- **Jinasena** wrote the **Adipurana** of the Jains.
- Krishna II's spiritual guide, **Gunabhadra**, wrote the **Mahapurana of the Jains**.
- The **three gems of ancient Kannada literature– Kavichakravarthi Ponna**, **Adikavi Pampa** and **Kavichakravarti Ranna** – were patronised by **Rashtrkuta** king **Krishna III**, as well as by **Tailapa and Satyashraya of Western Chalukyas.**
- Notable apabhramsha poet **Svayambhu** and his son were likely inhabitants of the Rashtrakuta court.

DYNASTIES OF THE NORTH

Chandellas of Jejakabhukti (Bundelkhand) (9th- 13th century AD)

They originally served as **feudatories to the Gurjara Pratiharas** and claimed descent from sage **Chandratreya**. The Chandella dynasty was founded by **Nannuka (831-845 AD). [UPSC 2022]**

Chandella's Architectural legacy is visible at the magnificent temples at **Khajuraho**.

Important Rulers

- **Yasovarman (925-950 AD)**, the first autonomous Chandella ruler, broadened his realm in North India. His son, **Dhanga/Dhangdev (950-999 AD)**, annexed Pratihara territories and supported **Shahi ruler Jaipal** against **Subuktigin**, while **Ganda/Gandadev (999-1002 AD), Dhanga's son**, assisted Jaipal's son **Anandpal** against **Mahmud Ghazni.**
- **Vidyadhara (1003-1035 AD)** (Ganda's son), a powerful **Chandella king**, subdued the **Pratiharas**.
- **Paramardideva (1165-1203 AD)**, a later Chandella ruler, faced defeats from **Prithvi Raj III** and **Qutbuddin Aibak**, but his descendant regained **Kalinjar by 1205** as Turks struggled to retain it. Kalinjar fort remained under native rulers until 1545, after which it fell to the Afghans.

Paramaras of Malwa (9th-14th century AD)

They were originally vassals of the Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas. They emerged as an independent power in the second half of the 10th century. **Upendra (Krishnaraja) (800-818 AD)** founded it with Dhar as its capital.

Munja/Vakapatiraja II (972-990 AD) was a notable ruler.

- He was a patron of art and literature and various poets who graced his court were:
  - **Dhananjaya** wrote **Dasharupakam.**
  - **Padmagupta** wrote **Nava-sahasanka-charita.**
  - Other poets include **Halayudha** and **Dhanika.**

Raja Bhoja: The dynasty reached its zenith under his reign.

- **In 1008,** he sent an army to assist **Anandapal** against **Mahmud Ghazni** and provided shelter to Anandapala's son **Trilochanpal.**
- He faced attacks from **Chalukya** and **Kalachuris.**
- In **1043,** he joined the confederacy of native chiefs that conquered Hansi, Thanesar, Nagarkot and other areas from the Turks.
- He founded the city of **Bhojapur** near Bhopal.

He authored books on subjects like medicine, astronomy, religion and architecture.

- **Shringar Prakash,** a book on grammar.
- **Samrangan Sutradhar** a popular book on civil engineering
- **Champu Ramayana** (prose and poetry)

Mahālakadeva (died 1305 AD), the last ruler of the Paramara dynasty, was defeated by the **forces of Alauddin Khalji.**

Tomaras of Dhillika (Delhi) (8th-12th century AD)

Background

- They ruled the **Hariyana (Haryana)** with their capital at **Dhillika (Delhi)** and were the feudatory of the **Pratiharas.**
- Medieval **bardic literature** (produced by a class of poets trained in the **bardic schools** of **Ireland** and the **Gaelic** parts of **Scotland**) names the dynasty as "**Tuar**" and classifies them as **one** of the **36 Rajput clans.**
  - They often had conflicts with the **Chahamanas of Shakambhari,** and their rule was followed by Chahamanas.
- A **13th-century Palam Baoli** (step well) inscription records that the land of Hariyanaka was first ruled by the **Tomaras**, then by the **Chauhans**, and thereafter by the **Shakas**.
- The most important king was **Anangapala Tomara**.
  - He established **Delhi** and he was described in the **11th-century inscription** of the iron pillar at **Mehrauli.**
  - His **coins** feature the **horseman-and-bull figure** and bear the title **"Shri Samanta-deva"**. These were similar to the coins of the Shakambhari Chahamana kings **Someshvara** and **Prithviraja III.**

Contribution

- Construction of the earliest surviving waterworks in the Delhi area.
- **Anangapala II** was the founder of the citadel of **Lal Kot** in the **Mehrauli area** and also built a tank known as the **Anang Tal**.
- The famous **Suraj Kund reservoir** (near Faridabad, Haryana) was commissioned by the Tomara king **Surajpala.**

Chahamanas or Chauhans of Sakambhari (6th- 12th century AD)

The dynasty was named after their **capital, Sambhar** in Rajasthan. It was founded by **Simharaja (944–971 AD).**

Important Rulers

Ajayaraja (1110–1135 AD) reclaimed **Nagor** and prevented further Ghaznavid advance.

- He founded **Ajmer (Ajayameru)**.
- His coins feature the name of **Queen Somaldevi**.

- His son, **Arnoraja**, halted the **Yaminis** and allied with the **Chalukya** ruler of Gujarat through **marriage.**
- Arnoraja's son, **Vigraharaja IV (1150–1164 AD)**, expanded the Chauhan kingdom to an empire by capturing Delhi and Hansi.
  - He was a patron of literature and his work drama **Harakeli** is engraved on stone in Ajmer.
  - **Lalita-Vigraharaja** was written by his court poet **Somadeva**.
  - Constructed the **Adhai din ka Jhonpra (now mosque)** which was **originally a college.**

Prithviraj III (1177–1192 AD), the last ruler of this house, attacked Kannauj, Gujarat, and Chandella.

- **Chandbardai** wrote **Prithviraj Raso (in Braj Bhasa)** on the life of Prithviraj III.
- **Prithviraj Vijaya** is also an account of his reign written by **Jayanaka.**
- He fought two wars with **Muhammad Ghori**
  - **First Battle of Tarain (1191):** the battle ended in victory for the Rajputs; however, Muhammad of Ghor managed to escape and returned to Ghazni.
  - **Second battle of Tarain (1192): Prithviraj** lost to Muhammad Ghori leading to the rise of Muslim rule in India.

- Branches of the Chauhans also ruled at Ranthambore, Nadol, and Jalore. Ajmer and Jalore were captured by Alauddin Khalji in the early 14th century.

Gahadvalas of Kannauj (11th-12th century AD)

They were Suryavanshi Kshatriyas who ruled the kingdom of **Kannauj** in the **late 11th century**. They gradually pushed the **Palas** out of **Bihar** and made Banaras their second capital.

Rulers and their Contributions

Chandradeva (~1090 AD): He **founded** this **dynasty** and successfully wrested Delhi from the Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas.

Vijayachandra (1154–1170 AD): He successfully faced the aggressions of the Ghaznavids. During his reign, Delhi was lost, and the Tomar rulers stopped recognising Vijayachandra as their sovereign.

Jaichandra (1170–1194 AD)

- During his reign, the Chauhans from Ajmer, under **Prithviraj Chauhan,** annexed Delhi.
- In **the Battle of Chandawar** (1194 AD) (near Firozabad, on the banks Yamuna River)**, Mohammad Ghori** defeated **Jaichandra** and sacked the kingdom.
- **Jaichandra**'s grandson, **Siyaji**, founded the **Rathore clan**, which ruled the princely state of Marwar from Jodhpur.
- The glory of Kannauj ended with the conquest of **Iltutmish.**

Kalachuris of Tripuri (10th- 12th century AD)

Founded by **Kokalla-I (845-855 AD).** He was known for defeating Turkish troops (Turushkas) of Sindh and through marriage allied with the Chandella**.** Their earliest seat of power was **Mahismati on the Narmada.**

- The famous **poet Rajasekhara** lived in the Kalachuri court.
- They are also known as **Katasuris, Haihayas, and Chedis**.
- Despite several capable rulers, the dynasty declined in the late 10th century but resurged under **Gangeyadeva** around 1015 AD in Jabalpur.
- His son, **Karna (the greatest ruler of this dynasty)**, undertook significant territorial expansions including **Banaras** and **Prayagraj** extending up to **West Bengal** and allied with the Chalukyas against the Malwa.

Chalukyas (Solanki) of Gujarat (950-1300 AD)

- **Bhima I (1022-1064 AD)**: During his reign, **Mahmud Ghazni** invaded Gujarat and looted the Somnath temple**.**
- **Jayasimha Siddharaja (1092-93 AD)** consolidated and expanded the kingdom. After conquering parts of Malwa(1137), he took the title of **Avantinath (Lord of Malwa**).
  - He was a **devotee of Shiva** and built the **RudraMahakala temple** at Siddapura.
  - He was a **patron** of Jain scholar **Hemachandra**.
- **Kumarpala,** his successor, was the last renowned royal **proponent of Jainism**. During the reign of Kumarapala's minor grandson, Gujarat faced **Muhammad Ghur's invasion**.
- **Karna II**, the last Hindu king of Gujarat, confronted **Alauddin Khalji's** forces.

Kashmir

In Kashmir, the **Karkota** dynasty, known for its rulers like **Lalitaditya** and **Muktapida**, was succeeded by the **Utpalas** in the mid-9th century.

- **Avantivarman (855-883 AD)**, the founder of the **Utpala dynasty,** significantly developed drainage and irrigation systems to provide relief from floods. He founded the **town of Avantipur** and built many temples.
- The reign of the renowned **Queen Didda** was marked by unrest and led to the rise of the **Lohara dynasty.** The dynasty's fall in **1172** resulted in two centuries of anarchy, ending with **Shah Mir's** deposition of Queen Kota in **1339,** marking the cessation of Hindu rule in Kashmir.

DYNASTIES OF EAST AND NORTH-EAST

Assam

The **Pralamba dynasty** emerged in the **ninth** century in the Assam region.

- An unidentified king from this dynasty successfully repelled **Bakhtiyar Khalji's attack**, inflicting significant losses on the invaders.
- By the **mid-13th century**, the Ahoms, a subgroup of the **Shan tribe**, established the **Ahom Kingdom**, leading to the region being named "**Assam**". The Ahom state depended upon **forced labour.** Those forced to work for the state were called **paiks**.

Varmans and Senas (East Bengal)

The **Varmans** rose to power in the **early 11th century**, succeeded by the **Senas**, who likely originated from the **Kannada-speaking region** and claimed links with the kings of **Dakshinapatha.**

- **Vijayasena**, a significant Sena king who ruled from **1095**, played a crucial role in the region's cultural development, with his reign detailed in the **Deopara Prasahsti inscription (stone inscription)**. His successor, **Ballala Sena**, was noted for his learning,

authorship, and the introduction of the social system of **Kulinism**.

- **Lakshmanasena**, the **last Hindu ruler of Bengal** and son of **Ballal Sena**, known for his cultural advancements, had notable literary figures like **Jayadeva (Gita Govinda), Halayudha** and **Sridharadasa** at his court. His successor maintained control over Vanga until the mid-13th century when the **Deva dynasty** overtook it.

Kalinga (Orissa)

In the **mid-7th century**, Orissa was under the rule of **Sainyabhita Madhavavarman** (Srinivasa) of the **Shailodbhava dynasty**, noted for performing the **Ashwamedha sacrifice**.

- This dynasty held sway until the **mid-8th century**. Afterwards, Orissa was governed by several dynasties, notably the **Karas and Bhanjas**, with the **Kara dynasty** witnessing at least **five female rulers.**
- The **Eastern Gangas**, related to the **Gangas of Mysore**, established their domain in **Kalinga**, with **Kalinganagara** as their capital.
  - A significant ruler, **Anantavarman Chodaganga**, unified **Utkal and Kalinga,** and succeeded his father around **1078 AD**, enhancing Orissa's territorial extent.
  - Despite facing a **Chola attack**, he annexed their lands, extending his kingdom from **"Ganga to Godavari,"** and laying the foundation for modern Orissa; constructed the **Jagannath temple**.
  - The kingdom maintained control up to the Ganges and resisted invasions from Bengal, including one from **Bhaktiyar Khalji.**
  - **Narasimha I (1238-1264)** commissioned the construction of **Sun Temple at Konark**.

In the mid-15th century, a new royal family, **the Suryavamsas**, came to power in Kalinga.

Lingaraj temple, Bhubaneswar (related to Shiva) was built by **Somvanshi King Yayati I.**

DYNASTIES OF THE DECCAN AND SOUTH INDIA

Chalukyas of Kalyani (10th-12th century AD)

Taila II (973-997 AD), the founder of **Chalukyas of Kalyani,** succeeded the **Rashtrakutas**, with their capital established in **Kalyani (modern Bidar district),** Karnataka.

- He subjugated neighbouring realms, including the **Gangas of Mysore, Paramaras of Malwa, Chalukyas of Gujarat,** and **Kalachuris of Chedi**.
- The period marked a notable **Chalukya-Chola rivalry,** tacitly accepting the **Tungabhadra River** as the border between the two kingdoms.

Vikramaditya VI, established the **Chalukya-Vikram era** in place of **the Saka era.**

- He was patron to eminent scholars like **Bilhana**, the composer of **Vikramanankadevacharita** and **Vijnaneshvara**, the author of **Mitakshara** (a commentary on the Yajnavalkya Smriti).
- By the mid-12th century, the Chalukya reign waned, giving way to the **Kakatiyas of Warangal, Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra, and Yadavas of Devagiri**. **The Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi**, initially Chola protectorates, were eventually integrated into the Chola Empire under **Koluttunga**.

Yadavas of Devagiri

The Yadavas, who claimed to have lineage of the **Yadu family** of Lord Krishna, are believed to be an indigenous Maratha group (Originally feudatories of Rashtrakutas and subsequently Western Chalukyas).

Bhillama V founded the Yadava kingdom with **Devagiri** as its capital. The kingdom experienced conflicts with the **Hoysalas** over the territories of the declining Western Chalukya empire.

Simhana(1210-1246) brought the Yadava kingdom to its zenith. The last famous ruler of this dynasty was **Rama Chandra Deva** who faced invasion by **Alauddin Khalji.**

Kakatiyas (950-1323 AD)

Originating from an **ancient Telugu family**, they were feudatories to the **Western Chalukyas.**

Beta I (the earliest known chief) carved out a small kingdom in **Nalgonda district** (Hyderabad). Following the demise of the **Western Chalukya king, Vikramaditya VI**, Kakatiyas started their expansion by defeating Chalukyan feudatories.

Ganapati, a prominent **Kakatiya ruler,** centralised power over the Telugu region, emphasising **administrative efficiency** and bolstering **trade and agriculture**.

- He completed the **construction of the city of Warangal** and shifted his capital there.
  - **Rudramadevi (Daughter of Ganpati)** assumed the name of **Rudradeva Maharaja** and ruled for approximately 35 years, contending with threats from Orissa and the Yadavas, and was a **patron of Pasupata Saiva monasteries**.
  - **Pratap Rudra (1295-1323)**, Rudramadevi's grandson, was the dynasty's last ruler.

Motupalli was the chief port of the Kakatiyas and Venetian traveller **Marco Polo** visited this port. (**UPSC 2017**)

Chola Empire (later half of 9th-13th century)

Introduction

The Cholas were one of the three mighty dynasties that ruled the **Tamizh** country in the early historical period. They have been described as one of the **Muvendhar** in Sangam literature and also mentioned in the rock edicts of **Ashoka.**

- The Chola empire was revived in the mid-9th century under **Vijayalaya** (probably a **Pallavas' vassal**) who conquered the Kaveri delta from Muttaraiyar. He built the **city of Thanjavur.**
- The later Cholas traced their ancestry to the **Karikala,** a well-known Chola ruler of the Sangam age.
- Further expansion ensued under **Aditya (Rajaditya)** and **Parantaka I** (who took the title of **Maduraikonda** after conquering the land of Pandya)**,** resulted in confrontations with **Rashtrakuta King Krishna II,** culminating in defeat of **Rajaditya (Chola)** at the **Battle of Takkolam** in **949 A.D.**

Important Rulers

Rajaraja I (985-1014 AD)

His era has been compared with **Samudraguta** in its political significance.

Conquest:

- Engaged in **naval expeditions** and emerged victorious on the West Coast, Sri Lanka and conquered the Maldives. He established **direct control over the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka** through military conquest.
- Rajaraja I integrated conquered territories and appointed "**viceroys**": **Chola-Pandya in Pandinadu**, **Chola-Lankeswara in Sri Lanka**, later renamed as **Mummudicholamandalam**, and **Chola-Ganga in the Gangavadi region** of southern Karnataka.

Architecture: He constructed the **Brihadesvara temple** at Thanjavur (known as **Rajarajeswara temple** after him)**.** His various accomplishments are engraved on the walls of this temple. He also assisted the king of Java in constructing a **Buddhist Vihara in Java.**

Rajendra I (1014-44 AD)

He was the son of Rajraja, and Chola's power reached its pinnacle under him**.**

- The **Tiruvalangandu copper plate inscription** and **Tirumalai rock inscriptions** provide details of his conquests.
- **Military campaigns:**
  - Attacked the **Western Chalukyas** extending the boundary of the Chola Empire up to the Tungabhadra River.
  - Attacked **Madurai**, after which the Pandyas escaped and took shelter in Sri Lanka. Thereupon, Rajendra I invaded Sri Lanka in their pursuit.
  - He assumed the title of **Gangaikonda (conqueror of the Ganges)** and founded the city of **Gangaikonda Cholapuram** after his victory over **Mahipala** (the king of the Pala dynasty). He led the expedition up to the Godavari River. The **Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple** was built to commemorate his victories in North India.
  - His **naval operation** was directed against **Sri Vijaya kingdom** (southern **Sumatra**), a prominent maritime and commercial state that flourished from 700-1300 AD in South-east Asia.
- He adopted the titles of **Mudikonda Cholan** (the crowned Chola)**, Kadaramkondan** (conqueror of Kadaram), and **Pandita Cholan** (scholarly Cholan)**.**
- He conquered **Sumatra** and promoted trade between the Malaya peninsula and South India.

The Chola invasions of **Western Chalukya Empire**, undertaken in 1003 by **Rajaraja I** and 1009 by **Rajendra I**, were also successful.

Rajendra I was succeeded by **Rajadhiraja** and he was succeeded by **Rajendra II**.

Kulottunga I (1070-1122 AD)

- He was the **last important** Chola ruler who united the Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi with the Cholas.
- Initiated **administrative reforms,** including **land surveys (coincides with the Domesday survey in England)**.
- Though a **Shaivite,** he made grants to **Buddhist shrines** at Nagapattam**.**
- He **lost Vengi** and faced the Hoysala invasion, resulting in the loss of **Gangavadi province**. He also faced challenges from Pandya and Chera. This led to the decline of the Chola empire, eventually overtaken by the **Hoysalas** and the **Pandyas.**

Sambuvarayars were chieftains/feudatories in the North Arcot and Chengalpattu regions during the reign of Chola kings, Rajathiraja and Kulothunga III.

Chola Administration

- The king was central to the administration, assisted by **royal princes**, a ministerial council and administrative staff. State officers received **land grants** and titles as payment and honour.
- The kings were invariably addressed as **Peruman** or **Perumagan** (big man), **Ulagudaiyaperumal** (the lord of the world) and **Ulagudaiyanayanar** (the lord of the world). Later, they adopted the titles such as **Chakkaravarti** (emperor) and **Tiribhuvana Chakkaravarti** (emperor of three worlds).

- The empire was divided into **provinces (mandalas)**, which were further subdivided into **valanadus** and **nadus.**
- Chola rulers appointed Brahmins as Rajaguru and, therefore granted **Brahmadeyams (huge estates of tax exempted land to Brahmins)** and **Chatur-vedi-mangalams (a tax exempted village for Brahmins).**

Local Administration

It was carried out by diverse **village assemblies**, like **ur, sabha or mahasabha, and nagaram.**

- **"Ur"** was a village assembly for all landholding classes.
- **"Sabha"** was an assembly of **Brahmins in Brahmadeya villages**, and
- **"Nagaram"** was an assembly for **merchants.**

The Uttaramerur inscriptions (919 & 921 AD). It was crafted under the rule of **Parantaka Chola I.**

It throws light on the **local administration** of Cholas. It provides details of the process of **electing** members to various committees that administered the affairs of a Brahmin settlement.

Army

Cholas maintained a **well-organised army**. The army consisted of **three** conventional divisions: Infantry, Cavalry **(Kudirai Sevagar)** and Elephant Corps **(Anaiyatkal).**

Relevant terms:

- **Padaividu** - Cantonments, which were established in the capital city.
- **Nilaipadai** - Military outposts in the conquered territory.
- **Dandanayagam**- commander-in-chief
- **Perundanam-** upper rank in the army; **Cirudanam-** lower rank.
- **Velaikkaran-** Emperor's personal bodyguards.
- **Villaligal** - Bowmen; **Valilar**- Sword-bearers; **Konduvar**- Spearmen.

Economy

Land survey

- There was an elaborate "department of land revenue" known as **Puravuvari-tinaikkalam**.
- For the purposes of **assessing tax**, the Cholas undertook extensive **land surveys** under **Rajaraja I (1001), Kulotunga I (1086) and Kulotunga III (1226)**
  - The surveyors of the land were called **Nadu-vagaiseykira.**

Units of land measurement were known by various names such as **kuli, ma, veli, patti,** and **padagam.**

Tax

- The tax rates were fixed depending on the **fertility of the soil** and the **status of the landholder**. The Temples and Brahmins were **exempted** from paying the taxes.
  - **Irai, Kadamai, Opati-** Primary land taxes levied on landlords.
  - **Kudimai** denotes Labour/Service tax levied on cultivators i.e. actual producers of land.
  - **Pattam** and **Ayam** denote taxes on various non-agricultural professions.
  - Paddy as tax was collected by a unit called **kalam** (28 kg).
  - **Iraikattina-nellu** - Tax paid in **kind.**

Irrigation System

- **Vati-vaykkal,** a criss-cross channel, is a traditional way of harnessing rainwater in the Kavery delta**.**

Vati is a drainage channel and a **Vaykkal** is a supply channel.

- The irrigation work done by Rajendra Chola I at Gangaikonda Cholapuram was an embankment of solid masonry. He described it as his **Jalamayam Jayasthambham**, meaning "**pillar of victory in water**". He built an irrigation tank called Cholagangam near the capital called Jala-stambha (water-pillar). It became the coronation centre, which was a Chola landmarks.

Trade

- Two guild-like groups are known:
  - **Anjuvannattar** were **maritime traders** comprising West Asians, including Jews, Christians and Muslims. They settled all along the port towns on the west coast.
  - **Manigramattar** were **traders in the hinterland.**
- **Vetti and amanji** were forms of **free labour** related to public works at the village level.

Society

- It was primarily an **agrarian society** where landholding was the prime determinant of social status and hierarchy.
- The Brahmin landholders, called **Brahmadeya-Kilavars** who were at the top of Brahmadeya settlements (with tax exemption) displaced **Kudi Neekki** (local peasants).
- Temples were gifted land known as **Devadana**, exempted from tax, as in Brahmadeyams.
- The landholders of Vellanvagai villages were placed next in the social hierarchy.
- **Ulukudi (tenants)** could not own land but had to cultivate the lands of Brahmins and holders of Vellanvagai villages. While landholders retained

Melvaram (major share in harvest), the Ulukudi got **Kizh Varam** (lower share).

- **Paniceymakkal (Labourers)** and **Adimaigal (slaves)** stayed at the bottom of the social hierarchy.

Chola Art and Architecture

Temples

- The temples became the hub of social, economic, cultural and political activities.
- Temples functioned as banks by advancing loans and by purchasing and receiving endowments and donations. They also acted as educational centres by providing training in Vedas, music and the arts.

Great Living Chola Temples (UNESCO)

1. **Brihadisvara temple** at **Thanjavur** built by **Rajaraja**.
2. **Brihadisvara Temple** at **Gangaikondacholisvaram** built by **Rajendra I.**
3. **Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram** built by Rajaraja II (1146–1172 AD).

- The prime temple officials were
  - **Koyilkanakku** (temple accountant)
  - **Deva-kanmi** (agent of god)
  - **Cantesar** (temple manager)
- Other officials included **Koyirramar** and **Srivaisnavar.**
- The **oil pressers** called **Sankarapadiyar** supplied oil to the temple and became part of the functionaries of the temples.
- A play based on the life of **Rajaraja I** called **Rajarajanatakam** was performed in the Thanjavur temple.
- Traditional dance items like **kudak-kuthu** and **sakkaik-kuthu** were depicted as sculptures and paintings in the temples. **Nirutya** and **Karna poses** are shown in sculptural forms in the Thanjavur temple.
- Traditional Tamil musical instruments were also depicted in a similar way.

Chola sculptures exemplified a harmony of energy, grace, and dignity.

Eg - The **Nataraj** or Dancing Shiva image at Chidambaram.

Chola paintings were rich in details and colour, notably adorning the **Pradakshina passage** of the **Brihadesvara temple.**

Literature

- Chola kings were great patrons of learning who supported Sanskrit education.
- Literary works **Kamba Ramayanam** and **Periyapuranam** belong to this period.
- **Rajendra I** established **Vedic college** at Ennayiram (South Arcot district), a Vaishnava centre, where learnings on Vedas, Grammar and Vedanta were provided.

Decline of Chola

- By the end of the 12th century, local chiefs became prominent, which weakened the centre.
- With frequent invasions of Pandyas, the once mighty empire became dependent on the Hoysalas.
- In 1264, Jatavarman Pandyan I sacked the Chola's capital, Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
- 1279 AD marks the end of Chola dynasty when King **Maravarman Pandyan I** defeated the **last king Rajendra Chola III** and established the rule by Pandyas.

Hoysalas (10th-14th Centuries)

Sala, also known as **Nripakama**, was the **founder of** the Hoysala dynasty.

Extent: The dynasty spanned across the districts between the Western Chalukyas and Cholas, eventually extending over much of the former Mysore state.

They established their capital at **Dwarasamudra**. **Belur** served as a royal residence renowned for **splendid Hoysala monuments.** The royal family was protected by a well-trained force of **bodyguards** known as **Garudas**.

Conflicts: They engaged in **conflicts with the Yadavas and Pandyas**.

Notable rulers included **Vishnuvardhan, Ballala II, and Ballala III.**

- **Ballala III** fought with the armies of the **Delhi Sultanate (Khalji and Tughlaq)**.
- The Hoysalas were **eminent builders,** evolving Chalukya art traditions. Eg: **Hoysalesvara temple at Halebid**.
- The Hoysala capital, **Halebidu, was sacked** twice, in 1311 and 1327.

Later Pandyas

Pandyas were one of the **Muvendars** that ruled the southern part of India until the pre-modern times. They are referred to as the Pandyas of Madurai. It was an ancient Tamil dynasty of South India and among the four great kingdoms of Tamilakam, the other three being the Pallavas, the Cholas and the Cheras.

The **timeline** of the Pandya dynasty is difficult to establish as the dynasty passed through many phases.

- Ancient Pandyas/Early Pandyas: 4th to 3rd centuries BC
- Later (Medieval) Pandyas: 6th to 10th centuries AD
- Re-rise of Pandyas: 13th to 14th centuries AD

Territory of Pandyas: It is called **Pandymandalam**, **Thenmandalam** or **Pandynadu**. It covered the hilly

regions except the areas fed by the rivers **Vaigai** and **Tamiraparni**.

Borders of the kingdom:

North: River **Vellar** running across the **Pudukkottai** region	**South**: Indian Ocean
West: Western Ghats	**East**: Bay of Bengal

Source to Study

The **Velvikkudi grant** of Nedunjadayan.

Accounts of **Marco Polo**, **Wassaff** and **Ibn-Batuta.**

Important Rulers

- **Kadunkon** recovered Pandya territory from the **Kalabhras** and revived the Pandyas.

The **Kalabhra** (hill tribes) were rulers of all or parts of the Tamil region sometime between the 3rd-6th century AD, after the ancient dynasties of the early Cholas, Pandyas and Chera. They possibly extended their patronage to Buddhists and Jains

- **Sendan** had warlike qualities and took the title of **Vanavan** which suggested his conquest of Cheras.

Arikesari Maravarman (624–674 AD)

- According to a **Vaigai river bed inscription,** he ascended the throne in 642 AD. He is known for victories over his counterparts such as Cheras, Cholas, Pallavas and Sinhalese.
- **Religious Alignment: Saivite** saint **Thirugnanasambandar** converted Arikesari from Jainism to Saivism. Further, **Arikesari** is identified with **Kun Pandian**, the **persecutor of Jains**.
- Arikesri was a **contemporary** of **Mahendravarman I and Narsimahvarman I**.

Jatila Parantaka Nedunjadayn (Varaguna I) (756–815 AD)

- He was also known as the **greatest of his dynasty** and successfully handled the Pallavas and Cheras.
- Expanded the Pandya territory to Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Coimbatore districts.
- He is considered the donor of the **Velvikkudi plates** and is credited with building several Siva and Vishnu temples.

Srimara Srivallabha (815–862 AD)

- He invaded Ceylon and maintained his authority. He was defeated by Pallava **Nandivarman III** (846–869 AD)
- Srimara was followed by **Varaguna II** who was defeated by **Aparajita Pallava** (885–903) at Sripurmbiyam.
- Other successors/ rulers like **Parantaka Viranarayana and Rajasimha II**, could not stand up to the rising Chola dynasty under **Parantaka I.**
- **Parantaka I defeated** the Pandya king **Rajasimha II** who fled the country in **920CE**.

The Pandyas again **found an opportunity to revive its frontiers** during the late 13th century after the death of **Adhi Rajendra (Chola viceroyalty)** and Pandya chieftains started ruling their regions independently.

Sadaiyavarman Sundarapandyan (1251-1268 AD)

He was the famous ruler of the second Pandya kingdom who brought the **entire Tamil Nadu** under his rule and exercised his authority up to **Nellore in Andhra**.

Maravarman Kulasekharan (1268-1312 AD)

- In 1302, elder son **Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan III was appointed** co-regent.
- The king's appointment of Sundara Pandyan as a co-regent provoked the other son **Vira Pandyan** and so he **killed his father Maravarman Kulasekharan**.
- In the civil war that ensued, Vira Pandyan won and firmly established his kingdom.
- The other son, **Sundara Pandyan, fled to Delhi** and **took refuge** under the **protection of Alauddin Khalji**. This turn of events provided an opening for the invasion of Malik Kafur.

Invasion of Malik Kafur

Malik Kafur invaded the kingdom and looted Madurai in 1311.In Madurai, a Muslim state subordinate to the Delhi Sultan came to be established and continued until 1335 AD when the Muslim Governor of **Madurai, Jalaluddin Asan Shah** threw off his allegiance and declared himself independent.

Marco Polo (Traveller from Venice)

He visited **Kayal port** (Tamrapani delta of Coromandal coast, Tamil Nadu) twice(1288, 1293 AD) and observed that the town was full of ships from Arabia and China and bustling with business activities. He lauded the king for fair administration and generous hospitality to foreign merchants.

- He also recorded the incidents of **sati** and the **polygamy** practised by the kings.

Administration of Pandya Kingdom

Political Administration:

- Pandya kings made **Madurai** their capital which was revered as **Kudal** and **Tamil Kelukudal**.
- The kings were traditionally revered as **Kudalkon, Kudal Nagar Kavalan & Madurapura Parameswaran**.
- The Pandyas derived military advantage over their neighbours by means of their horses, which they imported through their connection to Arabs.
- Kings used to sit on a royal couch while exercising power.

- Couches were named after the local chiefs: **Munaiya Daraiyan, Pandiya Daraiyan and Kalinkat Traiyan**.
- The king issued royal orders **orally**. It was documented by a royal scribe called **Tirumantira Olai.**
- Royal palaces were called **Tirumaligai** and **Manaparanan Tirumaligai**.

- **Titles of the early Pandyas**: Pandiyatirasan, Pandiya Maharasan, Mannar Mannan, Avaniba Sekaran, Eka Viran, Sakalapuvana Chakkaravarti.
- **Titles of the later Pandyas:** Kodanda Raman, Kolakalan, Puvanekaviran, and Kaliyuga Raman.
- **Titles in chaste Tamil:** Sembian, Vanavan and Thennavan.

Royal Officials:

ROYAL OFFICIALS	DESIGNATION
Uttaramantri	Prime Minister
Eluttu Mandapam	Royal Secretariat
Akapparivara Mudalikal	Personal Attendants Of The Kings
Maran Eyinan, Sattan Ganapathy, Enathi Sattan, Tira Tiran, Murthi Eyinan	Officials
Palli Velan, Parantakan Pallivelan, Maran Adittan and Tennavan Tamizhavel	Titles of Military Commanders
Manickavasagar, Kulaciraiyar and Marankari worked as ministers.	

Political Divisions

- Pandy Mandalam or Pandy Nadu consisted of many **Valanadus.**
- Valandu were divided into many **Nadus** and **Kurrams**.
  - Nadu and Kurram contained settlements, viz., **Mangalam, Nagaram, Ur** and **Kudi**, inhabited by different social groups.
  - The administrative authorities of Nadus were the **Nattars**.
- **Mangalam** or **Chaturvedimangalam** were Brahmin settlements with irrigation facilities.
  - These settlements were given royal names and names of the deities.
  - Influential Brahmins had honorific titles such as **Brahmmadhi Rajan** and **Brahmmaraiyan**.
- An **inscription from Manur (Tirunelveli district)** provides an account of **village administration.**
  - It looks similar to the local governance of Cholas, which included village assemblies and committees. Both civil and military powers were vested in the same person.

Irrigation

- A unique political division in Pandy Mandalam is **Kulakkil,** i.e., the area under irrigation tank. For instance, Madurai is described in an inscription as **Madakkulakkil Madurai**.
- Irrigation sources created by Pandya were named after members of the royal family such as **Vasudeva Peraru, Virapandya Peraru, Srivallaba Peraru** and **Parakirama Pandya Peraru.**
  - The tanks were named **Tirumaleri, Maraneri, Kaliyaneri** and **Kadaneri.**
- **The Sendan Maran inscription** of the Vaigai river bed speaks of a sluice installed by Pandya to distribute the water from the river.

Land under Pandya

- Land was surveyed using the rods of 14 and 24 feet.
- **Nattar** assessed the qualities of land under cultivation for the purpose of levying tax.
- **Salabogam** - land assigned to Brahmins.
- **Tattarkani -** land assigned to ironsmiths.
- **Taccu-maniyam** - land assigned to carpenters
- **Bhattavriutti** - land donated to the Brahmin group for **imparting education.**

Trade

Arab settlements on the west coast of southern India led to the expansion of their trade connection to the east coast of Tamizh country. The goods traded were spices, pearls, precious stones, horses, elephants and birds.

- **Traders** were referred as **Nikamattor, Nanadesi, Ticai-Ayiratu-Ainutruvar, Ainutruvar, Manikiramattar** and **Patinen-Vishyattar.**
  - **Teru** was the place where the traders lived.
- **Horse trade** was recorded by **Wassaff (Persian historian)**. Those trading in horses were called **Kudirai-Chetti.**
- The **busiest port** town under the Pandyas was **Kayalpattinam** (now in Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu) on the east coast. **Cintamani, Mylapore, Tiruvotriyur, Tiruvadanai and Mahabalipuram** were other busy coastal trading centres.
- **Gold coins** were used as a medium of trade.

- It was called **Kasu, Palankasu, Anradunarpalankasu, Kanam, Kalancu** and **Pon**.
- The titular **gods** of the traders were **Ayirattu Aynurruvaar Udaiyar** and **Sokka Nayaki Amman**.
- The periodically held fairs were called **Tavalamin settlements.**

Education and Literature

- Education was promoted through the appointment of singers to recite the Bhakti hymns in the temples and play in theatres.
- Brahmins studied the Sanskrit treatises in educational centres **Kadigai, Salai** and **Vidyastanam.**
- Important Tamil literary texts: **Tiruppavai, Tirvempavai, Tiruvasagam, Tirukkovai and Tirumantiram.**

Religion

- Pandayas earlier believed in Jainism but later adopted Saivism and Vaishnavism.
- **Sadaiyavarman Sundarapandyan** was anointed in **Srirangam temple**, and to commemorate it, he donated an idol of **Vishnu** to the temple.
- Pandyas extended patronage to Vedic practices:
  - **Palyagasalai Mudukudumi Peruvaluthi**, who performed many Vedic rituals, is identified with Pandyas of the Sangam period.
  - **Velvikkudi copper plates** as well as inscriptional sources mention rituals like Ashvameda yagya, Hiranyagarbha and Vajapeya yagna.
- Some kings were ardent **Saivite** and some were ardent **Vaishnvavites**. Temples of both sects were patronised.

Temples

- Pandyas built different models of temples - Sepulchral temple (e.g sundarapandisvaram), Rock-cut cave temples and Structural temples.
- **Early Pandyas**: Prominent **rock-cut cave temples** can be found in **Pillayarpatti, Tirumeyyam, Kuntrakkudi, Tiruchendur, Kalugumalai, Kanyakumari and Sittannavasal. Paintings** are found in the temples in **Sittannavasal, Arittaapatti, Tirumalaipuram and Tirunedunkarai.**
- **Medieval Pandyas & Later Pandyas** did not build any new temples but maintained the existing temples, enlarging them with the addition of gopuras, mandapas and circumambulations.
- The monolithic mega-sized ornamented pillars are the unique feature of the medieval Pandya style
- Pandyas especially patronised **Meenakshi temple** and kept expanding its premises by adding gopuras and mandapas.

Decline of Pandya Empire:

- After the death of **Maravarman Kulasekhara I** in 1310, his sons **Vira Pandya IV** and **Sundara Pandya IV** fought for the throne, while the **Khalji sultanate of Delhi** invaded their territory several times.
- The **Hoysala king Ballala III** also tried to take advantage of the situation but was defeated by the Khaljis.
- The Pandya brothers sought help from the Khaljis at different times but ultimately lost most of their domains to them.
- By 1323, the Pandya empire was reduced to a small region in South Arcot. Towards the end of the sixteenth century, the Pandyan dynasty suddenly disappeared from the Indian historical scene forever.

ADVENT OF ISLAM IN INDIA

- The **Battle of Qadisiya** brought the Arab armies to the frontier of al-Hind. They struggled in the north-west and fought with small Hindu kingdoms for around four centuries.
- **Muhammad Bin Qasim** eventually established **Arab rule in Sind in 712 AD after defeating King Dahir.**

While there were south Indian settlements in the Persian Gulf, Arabs too settled in **Malabar** and the **Coromandel** Coast. Arabs who married Malabar women and settled on the West Coast were called **Mappillais** (sons-in-law).

Ghaznavids in India

Subuktigin (Turkish slave commander) was the **founder** of the Ghaznavid dynasty and led numerous expeditions against the frontier outpost of the Hindu Shahi dynasty.

- **Subuktigin's** son, **Mahmud Ghazni,** invaded India **17 times.** As a reward for his service to Islam, he received the title of **'Yamin al-Dawla'** from the Abbasid Caliph. Thus, this dynasty was called **Yamini.**
  - He defeated **Jaipal (Hindushahi ruler)** in **1001 A.D.**
  - He defeated **Anandpal** (Jaipal's son) in the Battle **of Waihind (1008-1009 AD).**
  - He attacked the cities of **Nagarkot, Thanesar, Mathura** and **Kanauj** and looted the **Somnath temple** in **1025 AD.**
- After the death of Mahmud, the Ghaznavid empire was reduced to **Ghazni** and **Punjab** which was ultimately overthrown by their vassals, the **Ghurids**, from the mountainous region east of Herat.

Ghurids in India

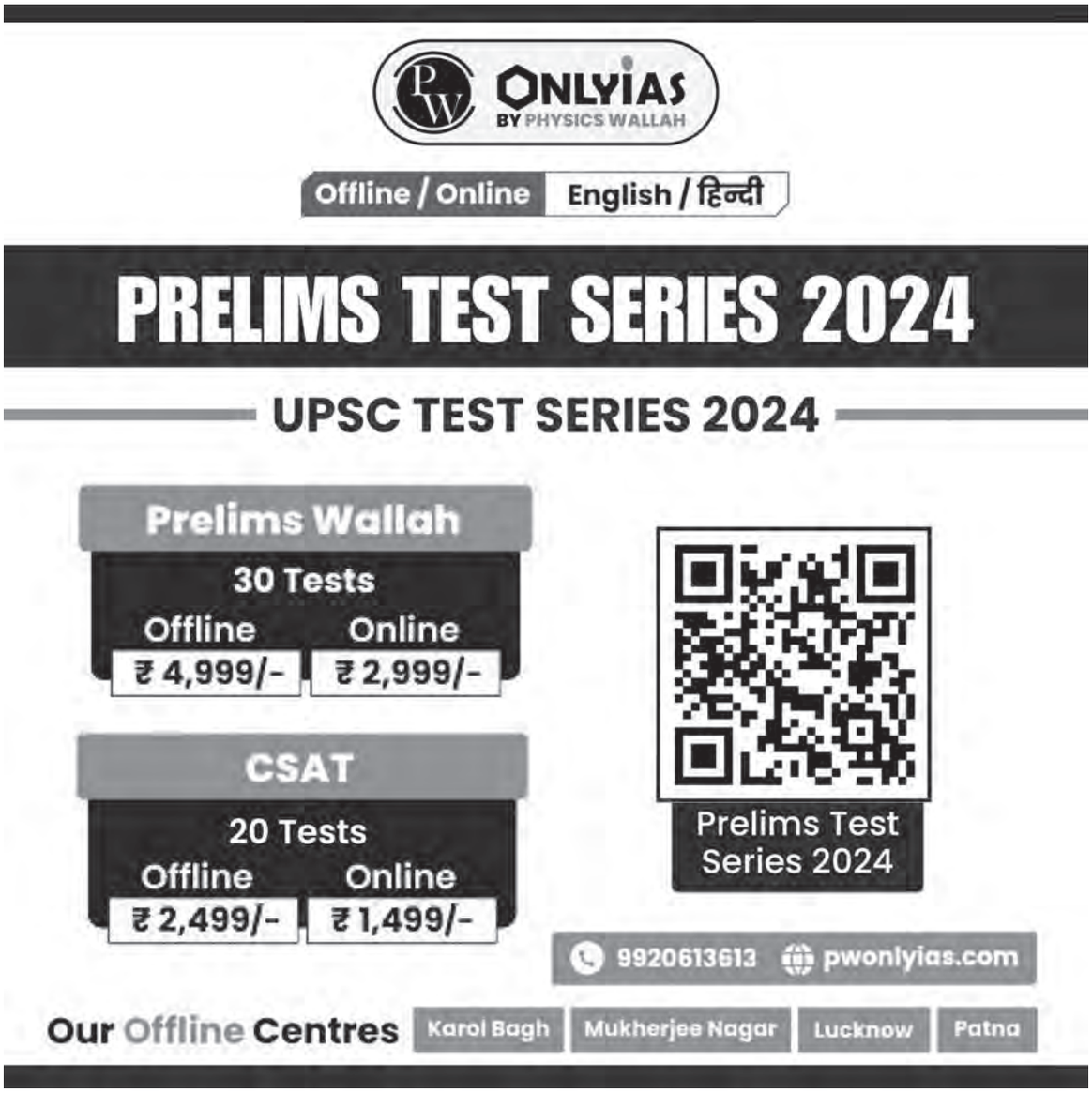
- Muhammad of Ghor or Muhammad Ghori's first invasion was against Multan, which ultimately fell in 1175 AD.

- He was defeated in Gujarat by **Raja Bhimdev II (Chalukya/Solanki dynasty)** in the **Battle of Kayadara** in 1178-79, near Mount Abu. After this defeat Ghori changed the course of his expedition, consolidating his position in Sind and the Punjab.
- Through the 1180s and 1190s Ghori established garrisons in the modern provinces of Punjab, Sind, and Haryana. These centres of military power soon attracted the in-migration of mercenaries in search of opportunities.
- He fought two wars with **Prithviraj**
  - **First Battle of Tarain (1191)**: Prithviraj won this battle but **failed to consolidate his position** believing this battle to be a frontier fight, and did not expect the Ghurids to make regular attacks.
  - **Second battle of Tarain (1192)**: It was one of the turning points in Indian history. Prithviraj suffered a crushing defeat and was eventually captured. Ghori restored him to his throne in Ajmer. But on charges of treason, he was later executed, and Ghori's trusted general Qutb-ud-din Aibak was appointed as his deputy in India.

Battle of Chandawar (1194): Mohammad Ghori defeated **Jai Chand** (Gadhawal king of Kannauj).

- He looted the treasury of Gahadavala, occupied the city of Benaras and desecrated its temples.
- After 1203, following the death of his brother, he left India.

Qutubuddin Aibak (slave of Ghur) ultimately founded the Delhi Sultanate in 1206.



2 Delhi Sultanate

Time-line of the Rulers				
Mamluk Dynasty (1206-1290 AD)	**Khalji Dynasty** (1290-1320 AD)	**Tughlaq Dynasty** (1320-1414 AD)	**Sayyid Dynasty** (1414-51 AD)	**Lodi Dynasty** (1451-1526 AD)
Qutub-ud-din Aibak (1206-1210 AD)	**Jalal-ud-din Khalji** (1290-96 AD)	**Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq** (1320-24 AD)	**Khizr Khan** (1414-21 AD)	**Bahlul Lodi** (1451-1489 AD)
Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (1210-36 AD)	**Ala-ud-din Khalji** (1296-1316 AD)	**Muhammad Tughluq** (1324-51 AD)	-	**Sikandar Lodi** (1489-1517 AD)
Nasir-ud-din Mahmud II (1246-66 AD)	**Mubarak Shah Khalji** (1316-20 AD)	**Firuz Tughlaq** (1351-88 AD)	-	**Ibrahim Lodi** (1517-26 AD)
Ghiyas-ud-din Balban (1266-87 AD)				

Introduction

The invasions led by Mahmud of **Ghazni** and Muhammad **Ghori** into India led to the formation of the Delhi Sultanate.

SLAVE OR MAMLUK DYNASTY (1206-1290 AD)

Qutub-ud-din Aibak (1206-1210 AD)

Introduction

Mamluk means property (Arabic designation of a slave).

- Muizzuddin Muhammad (also known as **Muhammad Ghori),** after the **Battle of Tarain (1191,1192; Karnal, Haryana)**, returned to Ghazni and handed over the affairs to his trusted **slave Qutub-ud-din Aibak**.
- **Aibak** severed relations with Ghazni after Ghori's death and **founded** the **Slave dynasty** in India, declaring himself the Sultan, with **Lahore** as the capital of his kingdom.
  - This kept India away from Central Asian politics.
- He is also known as "**Lakh Baksh**" (Donor of lakhs) for his generosity and liberal donations.
- **Muhammad Bin Bhakthiyar Khalji**, a Turkish general from Afghanistan, assisted him in conquering Bihar and Bengal.
- **Bhakthiyar Khalji** is charged with destroying the University of Nalanda in Bihar.
- Aibak **died in 1210 AD** after falling from his horse while playing **chaugan** (Polo).

Architecture

- Constructed two mosques: **Quwat-ul-Islam** in Delhi and **Arhai din ka Jhonpra** in Ajmer.
- Commissioned the construction of **Qutub Minar** dedicated to Sufi saint **Khwaja Qutubuddin Bakthiyar Kaki.** Aibak died before the completion of the Minar, which was later completed by Iltutmish.

Literature

Tajul-Ma'asir (the first history book of the Delhi Sultanate) was written by **Hasan Nizami** under his patronage.

Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (1210-1236 AD)

Introduction

- He was the slave and son-in-law of Aibak and succeeded him after defeating his son. So he is also called '**slave of a slave**'. He belongs to the **Ilbari tribe.**

Military Challenges

- **Ghzani** was occupied by Khwarizmi Shah, who had expanded his empire until the Indus.
  - **Multan:** Qubacha, a slave of Aibak, declared independence.
  - **Gwalior, Ajmer**: Rajputs asserted independence.
  - **Bihar and Bengal:** Ali Mardan Khan declared himself the king.

Conquests

- Iltutmish is considered the **real consolidator of Turkish conquests** in northern India.
- He aimed to reclaim Gwalior and Bayana and conducted expeditions against Ranthambore, Jalor, and Nagda, attempting to retaliate against the **Chalukyas of Gujarat**, which saw **limited success.**
- **The first Mongol invasion** of India took place in his reign. But he saved India from Mongols (Genghis Khan) by refraining from supporting Khwarizm Jalaluddin, a Central Asian ruler, in his battle against the Mongols. **[UPSC 2022, 2021]**
- He ousted Qubacha from Multan and secured the borders of the Sultanate till the Indus, while Mongols destroyed the Khwarizmi Empire.

Administration

- Shifted the **capital** from **Lahore** to **Delhi**.Appointed **elite military slaves** (**Bandagan**), imported from centres like Bukhara, Samarqand, and Baghdad, as **governors** and **generals.**
- **He formed Chahalgani/Chalisa (council of 40 members) to administer the Sultanate.**
- Introduced **copper (Jital)** and **silver coins (tanka)**, the two basic coins of the Sultanate period.
- **Qutb Minar**, a colossal victory tower, completed during his reign.
- Started **the Iqta system** in India.
- Iltutmish was the first sultan to receive a recognition letter from the Caliph.

Iqta System

- Iqta is an **Arabic word** and the institution started in **Persia (Iran)**.
  - Used in the **Caliphate administration** as a way of financing operations and paying civil and military officers.
- The rulers made revenue assignments (**iqta**), in lieu of cash to their nobles (**umara**).
  - The assignees (**known as muqti and wali**) collected revenue from these areas.
  - The collected revenue was for their own expenses, paying the **troops** (maintained by them) and sent the surplus **(fawazil)** to the centre.
- It was **non-hereditary** and did not imply a right to the land but it became hereditary under **Firuz Shah Tughlaq.**
- These revenue assignments were **transferable**, with the iqta-holder being transferred from one region to another every three or four years.

He nominated his daughter, Raziya Sultan, as his successor, which was an unconventional decision at the time.

Razia Sultan (1236-1240 AD)

Introduction

- Only female Muslim ruler of the Sultanate.
- According to **Ibn Battuta**, she defied norms by **riding horses**, being armed, discarding the **veil system**, wearing **male attire,** and **leading the army** in war.

Conquests and Administration

- She sent an expedition against **Ranthambore (against the Rajputs)**.
- Her efforts to promote a non-Turk to high office faced opposition.
- Power struggle between the monarchy and the Turkish chiefs (**Chahalgani**) started during her reign.
- The elevation of a slave, Jalal-ud-din Yaqut, to the post of **Amir-i-Akhur**, **Master of the Stables**, angered the Turkish nobles.

Death: She was later assassinated while suppressing a rebellion in southern Punjab.

Balban (1266-1287 AD)

Introduction

- The struggle between the monarchy and the Turkish chiefs ended when **Balban,** a Turkish chief (also known as **Ulugh Khan**), ascended the throne in 1265.
- He was **intolerant of criticism** and extremely **authoritarian**. After consolidating his power, he assumed the title of **Zil-e-Ilahi.**

Administration

- He **abolished Chalisa/Chahalgani** because of its growing influence in the administration.
- He enforced ceremonies like **Sijada** (prostration) and **Paiboss** (kissing the monarch's feet)- symbolising that nobles were not his equals. These two ceremonies were of **Iranian origin** and considered **un-Islamic**.
- Maintained an extensive **network of spies** in the government departments.
- He aimed to gain **public trust** by ensuring **impartial justice**. Even the highest officials were held accountable.
- Balban **prioritised Turkish nobility** for government roles and excluded Indian Muslims from positions of authority.

Law and Order

Balban adopted the policy of '**blood and iron**' to deal with robbers and dacoits on the roads in Awadh and **Ganga-Jamuna doab** region and suppressing Meos (inhabitants of Mewat region), who plundered the outskirts of Delhi. **Military outposts (thanas)** were set up around Delhi.

Blood and Iron policy: Using all kinds of harsh methods, even to the extent of shedding blood to maintain law and order.

- **Colonies of Afghan soldiers** were settled in the **Doab** and **Katehar (modern Rohilkhand)** to safeguard the roads and handle Rajput zamindars.
- Balban reorganised the **military department (Diwan-i-Arz)** and provided **pensions** to soldiers no longer fit for service.
- Maintained a **strong centralised military** to deal with **Internal and external disturbances** (emanating primarily from the **Mongols**).

Mongols and the Problem of the North-West Frontier:

- India's natural boundaries predominantly provided protection, except for northwest mountain passes, through which invaders like the **Turks, Huns, and Scythians** penetrated India. Thus, controlling regions like **Kabul, Ghazni, and Qandahar** was vital for securing Punjab and Sind's fertile valleys.
- The **Delhi Sultanate**, amid West Asia's instability, **couldn't secure its frontiers**, facing heightened tensions with the rising **Khwarizmi Empire**, which had seized areas from the **Ghurids**. The situation intensified with **Changez Khan's** arrival in **1218 A.D.**, who launched devastating attacks on the Khwarizmi empire and inflicted substantial economic and cultural damage.
- Amid the **Mongol onslaught**, the **Delhi Sultanate** became a refuge for princes and scholars. It emerged as the centre of Islam.

KHALJI DYNASTY (1290 AD - 1320 AD)

Khaljis were of **mixed Turkish-Afghan** origin. They came to India at the time of the Ghurid invasion and moved to Bengal and Bihar, searching for an opportunity for advancement. Also, some were posted as soldiers in the northwest to meet the Mongol challenge.

Jalaluddin Khalji (1290-1296 AD)

Introduction

Amid the incompetency of Balban's heir and plotting by the nobles, army commander **Malik Jalal-ud-din Khalji** rose to power in 1290 and **established** the Khalji dynasty.

Administration

- He did not exclude the **Turks** from high offices but **ended their monopoly** of high offices.
- He **moderated Balban's strict policies**, asserting that with a Hindu majority, the state couldn't be solely Islamic, thus, displaying a **tolerant approach** towards **Hindus.**

Mongol Attack: Defeated **Hulagu's grandson (Mongol)** in 1292.

Conquest: Alauddin Khalji (governor of Kara Manikpur near Allahabad), successfully invaded Malwa and Devagiri, the capital of the Yadava kingdom in the Deccan.

Death: He was killed by his nephew and son-in-law, **Alauddin Khalji**, who subsequently ascended the throne.

Alauddin Khalji (1296-1316 AD)

Introduction

Alauddin Khalji was an intolerant **monarch** (unlike his predecessor, Jalauddin).

He took the title of **Sikander-i-Azam.**

Administration

- **Centralised revenue collection** directly from the farmers, sidelining the traditional village headmen. Tax policies **primarily targeted the wealthy** rather than burdening the poor.
- Traditional **village officials, khots (smaller landlords) and muqaddams (village headmen)** were stripped of their **customary privileges**. He taxed them at the same rate as peasants and subjected them to **Charai (grazing tax)** and **Ghari taxes (House tax)**.
- He **established a postal system** to maintain communication across the empire.
- He established a **spy service** to monitor the activities and discussions of nobles.
- **Executed or dismissed nobles** lured by Gold. **Punished his own family members** who were rebellious. He famously proclaimed **'Kingship knows no kinship'.**

- **Banned wines and intoxicants**; **Gambling was forbidden**.

Military Campaigns

- He defended against the **Mongol** invasion led by Targhi who marched up to Delhi and besieged the city. [**UPSC 2022**]
- **North Indian Expeditions:**
  - **Ranthambore** (1301), **Chittor** (1303), **Malwa** (1305)
  - **Devagiri:** 1307 (under **Malik Kafur**), 1314- looted **Somnath temple.**
  - **Deccan and South India Expeditions:**(Malik Kafur's Southward Journey)
    - **Kakatiya ruler** of Warangal defeated: 1309.
    - **Hoysala ruler** surrendered treasures: 1310.
    - Plundered the temple cities of **Chidambaram, Srirangam and Madurai.**
    - **The decline of the Pandya kingdom** gave way to a Muslim state in Madurai, which operated as subordinate to the Delhi Sultanate.

Reforms

- He introduced the **Chehra (description of soldiers)** and **Dagh (branding of horse)** system.
- He was the first Sultan to **pay soldiers in cash** instead of shares of booty.
- Alauddin had the **largest standing army** of all the Delhi rulers.

Market Reforms

- He stored grains in **royal granaries** to mitigate famines and control prices.
- To sustain a large army on modest pay, he ensured **low prices for essential commodities** by **setting maximum prices** for items including grains, cloth, fruits, livestock, and even slaves and horses.
- Price control was done through an **extensive intelligence network** to keep an eye on black-marketing and hoarding. **Stringent penalties** were imposed for price regulation violations.

Shahna-i-mandi: Daily reports on market prices were collected through market superintendents.

Diwan-i-Riyasat: Created for the purpose of controlling market and price.

- **Separate Bazaars:** The **sera-i-adl** for cloth, sugar, herbs, dry fruits, butter, and lamp oil; another for horses, slaves, and cattle.
  - A **registry of traders** was kept, mandating them to provide written commitments to sell specified merchandise amounts in the sarai-i-adl.

Taxation System

- **Kharaj** - agriculture tax amounting to about 50 per cent of the peasant's produce. For collecting kharaj, a particular post of the officer was created known as **Mustakharaj**.
- **Biswa (1/20 of bigha)** was used for cultivable land measurement and calculating its productivity.
- The land tax generally had to be paid in cash, pushing peasants into the money market. While in the **Doab region**, the tax was collected on grain for future scarcity.
- Alauddin also imposed two additional taxes on peasants:
  - **charai (for grazing)** and **garhi (on dwellings).**
- He abolished the village headman's cess **(Kismat-i-Khuti).**

Art and Architecture

- He supported **poets** of his period: **Amir Khusrau** and **Mir Hasan Dehlvi**.
  - Honored **Amir Khusrau** with the title of **Tuti-i-Hind** (Parrot of India).
  - **Khazain-ul-Futuh by Amir Khusrau** describes the conquests undertaken by Alauddin.
- **Architecture**: He constructed
  - **Alai Darwaza (1311)**: the southern gateway of the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque in Qutb complex, Mehrauli, Delhi.
  - **Siri Fort (1303):** Situated north of the Qutub complex.
  - **Mosque Jamait Khanm:** Built within the enclosure of Nizam-ud-din Aulia's shrine.

Death: After the death of Alauddin in 1316, the reign of Khiljis came to a gradual end and Ghazi Malik usurped the throne under the title Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq.

TUGHLAQ DYNASTY (1320 AD - 1413 AD)

Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (1320-1325 AD)

Introduction

He belonged to the **Qarauna tribe** of Turks and was the founder of the Tughlaq dynasty.

Before becoming Sultan, he defended the Sultanate from the Mongols and was Alauddin's **Muqta** (Governor; person-in-charge of an Iqta) in Dipalpur (Pakistan).

Conquest

- To reinforce Sultanate control in the Deccan, he dispatched expeditions against the **Kakatiya ruler** in Warangal, led by his son **Mohammad Bin Tughlaq.**
- In 1324, he himself led a successful campaign to annex eastern and southern Bengal.

Administration

- Followed a policy of reconciliation with the nobles.
- He was the first Sultan to **construct canals.**
- Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq tried to win over the peasants and village headmen by providing relief measures (exemption from additional levies, tax on cattle, etc.).

Architecture:

Tughlakabad Fort was built by Ghiyasudddin Tughlaq (1321) in Delhi.

Literature:

Amir Khusrau's "**Tughlaq Nama**" is a biography of Ghiyasuddin along with other Tughlaq rulers.

Death: His son, Ulugh Khan/Mohammad Bin Tughlaq, succeeded him after his death.

Mohammad Bin Tughlaq (1325-1351 AD)

Introduction

His reign marked both the **zenith** and the onset of **decline** for the Delhi Sultanate. **Moroccan** traveller **Ibn-Batuta** served as his envoy to **China**.

Administration

- **Reversal of the policy of Alauddin Khalji** to diminish the roles of **khuts** and **muqaddams** (village headmen). He aimed to ensure that the state received a significant portion of the land revenue.
- The state's share of revenue remained at **50%**, but it was set arbitrarily. Prices for the conversion of produce to money were also artificially determined.
- He established the **Diwan-i-Amir-Kohi**, a separate department **promoting agriculture** by providing loans **(known as 'Taccavi loans')** to induce them to cultivate superior crops. This initiative failed due to incompetent and corrupt officials.
- He appointed nobles from diverse backgrounds based on merit and competence.

Religious Policy:

Patronised Hindus and Jain scholars, notably **Jinaprabha Suri (Jain)**, who visited his Delhi court in 1328; ordered the construction of a new **Basadi upasraya**, a rest-house for Jain monks; **First Sultan to have participated in the festival of Holi.**

Experiments Undertaken

- **Enhanced taxation** and cesses in 1336 in the Ganga-Yamuna doab region.
- He first **shifted the capital** from **Delhi to Devagiri (Daulatadab)** for improved control over south India but the transfer proved disastrous.
- He launched a **token currency**, with **bronze** coins equated to **silver tanka** coins value. Though he also introduced a copper currency, both were eventually **retracted**(1329) as it resulted in **counterfeiting** and **inflation**.
- Proposed **Khurasan Expedition (1329**) to conquer Khurasan and Iraq, which was **later abandoned.**
- **Qarachil expedition(1333)** was initiated in the **Kumaon hills** to check Chinese incursions.

The emergence of kingdoms in South India during his reign:

- Madurai(1335) under Jalaludin Shah,
- Vijayanagar(1336) under Harihara and Buka,
- Warangal(1336) under Kanhaiya,
- Bahamani(1341-1347) under Hasan Gangu.

Mohammad bin Tughlaq died in 1351 when he was marching towards Sindh on which **Badauni** commented "**The king was freed from his people and they from their King**."

Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351-1388 AD)

Conquest

- Firuz waged no wars of annexation but maintained his authority by quelling rebellions. Two Mongol invasions were repelled during his reign.
- He **refrained** from asserting **dominance over South India** and the Deccan.

Administration

- Applied **hereditary principles** to the army and nobility (including Iqtas), permitting succession by their sons or sons-in-law or slaves, ensuring their loyalty and preventing rebellions.
- **Soldiers were not paid in cash** but by assignments of the land revenue of villages(reversal of Mohammad bin Tughlaq's policy).
- Established **Wakil-i-Dar -** Responsible for **court decorum** and noble precedence.
- Created a **public works department** responsible for constructions in the towns of **Fatehabad, Hissar, Firozpur, Jaunpur, and Firuzabad**, and
  - **Constructed five canals,** including one from the **Sutlej River to Hansi** and another in **Yamuna**.
  - Two **pillars of Ashoka** were brought to Delhi, one from **Meerut** and the other from **Topara**.
- **Muqtis (provincial governors)** faced **harsh audits** under previous rulers, but Firuz eased these measures.
- Prioritised improvement in **fruit quality** in India and established 1,200 orchards near Delhi.
- Amassed a **huge number of slaves** and established a **department for slaves (Diwan-i-Bandagan)**
  - to work in **handicrafts** and
  - as his bodyguards and providing personal services.

- He established hospitals for the poor known as **"Dar-ul-shafa"**.
  - **Diwan-i-Khairat** for providing for the marriages of poor girls.
- He introduced two new coins:
  - The **Adha** (equivalent to 50% of a Jital) and the **Bikh** (equivalent to 25% of a Jital).

Religion

- To **appease theologians**, many were appointed to high positions. They retained control over the judiciary and educational system.
- **Jizyah** was imposed as a **separate tax** by Firoz Shah Tughlaq which was previously collected in conjunction with land revenue.

Taxation Policy

- He imposed four taxes sanctioned by Islamic law: **Kharaj** (land tax); **Khams** (1/5 of the looted property during wars); **Jizya** (religious tax on Hindus); **Zakat** (2½ per cent of the income of Muslims, used for the welfare of Muslim subjects and their religion).
- He became the **first** Sultan to impose a **Sharb (irrigation tax)**.

Architecture and Literature

1. He wrote his autobiography titled **'Fatuhat-i-Firozshahi'(Persian).**
2. **Zia-ud-Din Barani** wrote **'Fatawa-i-Jahandari'** and '**Tarikh-i-Firozshahi**'.
3. Firuz Tughlaq was the **first** ruler who initiated translation of Hindu religious works from Sanskrit into Persian.
4. Firoz Shah Tughlaq founded the city of **Jaunpur** in memory of his cousin Mohammed bin Tughlaq, also known as Jauna Khan.
5. Firoz Tughlaq built the **Kotla Fort** in Delhi.

Death: Firoz Shah Tughlaq died in **1388**. The tomb of Firoz Shah Tughlaq is situated in the Hauz Khas complex in New Delhi.

After Firoz Shah Tughlaq, the rulers were weak. **Timur's** (Mongol chieftain) **invasion in 1398** plundered northern India. While leaving India, he appointed Khizar Khan as the governor of Multan, Lahore, and Dipalpur.

SAYYID DYNASTY (1414 AD-1451 AD)

Khizr Khan (1414-1421 AD) took over Delhi and started the Sayyid dynasty.His reign and that of his successors were marked by efforts to quell rebellions in regions like Kateher, Badaun, Etawah, and others, as well as contending with the Sharqi sultans of Jaunpur.

- After he died in 1421, he was succeeded by **Mubarak Shah (1421-1433 AD)**, **Muhammad Shah (1434-1443 AD**), and **Alauddin Alam Shah (1445-1451)**, who were not very influential leaders. Later, **Bahlul Lodi** (governor of Lahore) captured the throne.

Important points:

- The sayyids put on a pointed cap (kulah) and were known as '**Kulah-Daran' [UPSC 2022].**
- **Yahiya bin Ahmad Sirhindi** wrote **"Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi"** during their reign.

LODI DYNASTY (1451-1526 AD)

Last ruling family of the Sultanate period and the **first to be headed by the Afghans.**

Bahlul Lodi (1451-1489 AD)

- He **founded** the Lodhi dynasty and succeeded in bringing a large area of North India under his control. He annexed the Jaunpur kingdom.
- Nobles enjoyed substantial local autonomy and were bonded to him mainly through military obligations. Due to this, Bahlul did not exhibit royal authority, avoiding open courts and referring to his Afghan nobles as **Masnad-i ali.**
- He was given the title **Khan-i-khanan** after successfully helping Muhammad Shah against the Malwa Sultan.

Sikandar Lodi (1489-1517 AD)

He was the son of Bahlul Lodi. The Lodi Empire in North India attained its **zenith** under him.

- By the early 16th century, Lodi's influence expanded into Rajputana and Malwa.
- He made nobles subservient to him unlike Bahlul Lodi and held open darbar.
- Contemporary of both **Mehmud Begarha** of Gujarat and **Rana Sanga** of Mewar.

Administration

- He **abolished** the **'zakat'** tax on grains.
- Introduced a new unit of measurement called the **Gaz-i-Sikandari.**
- Reimposed the **Jaziya tax** on non-muslims.
- Established the city of **Agra** and relocated the capital from Delhi to Agra in 1506
- He was a well-known poet and wrote with the pen name **Gulrukhi**.

Ibrahim Lodi (1517-1526 AD)

He served as the last Sultan of the Lodi Dynasty in Delhi.

- Succession dispute led to the division of the empire. This **weakened the central power** and led to internal conflict.

- Daulat Khan Lodhi, the governor of Punjab invited Babur to overthrow Ibrahim Lodhi. **Babur** accepted the offer and defeated **Ibrahim** in the **First Battle of Panipat (1526).** Thus ending the Delhi Sultanate

LIFE IN DELHI SULTANATE

Central Administration

The Sultan was aided in administration by a council of ministers **(Majlis-i-Khalwat)**, personally selected by him and serving at his discretion.

Sultans:

- The sultanate established a **Turko-Afghan administrative system** in India.
- The Sultans considered themselves deputies of the Baghdad Caliph and incorporated the Caliph's name in their prayers (**khutba**) and engraved it on their currency.
- The absence of a clear **succession policy** caused instability and power struggles after the Sultan's demise.

Naib or Wali	**Most influential position** and oversaw all departments with extended authority.
Diwan-i-wazirat	Led the finance department.
Diwan-i-Ariz	Defense minister, overseeing military affairs with the **Ariz-i-mumalik** heading the department, responsible for soldier recruitment.
Diwan-i-Risalat	Headed by the chief Sadr; Department managed religious matters and allocated resources for building and maintaining mosques, tombs, and madrasas.
Qazi	Chief Qazi headed the judicial department overseeing Sharia in civil cases. Criminal law was based on regulations issued by Sultan. Hindus abided by their personal laws and issues were resolved by village panchayats.
Diwan-i-Insha	Managed correspondence, handling all communications between the ruler and officials.
Wakil-i-Dar	Maintaining decorum of the court.
Barids	Intelligence agents.
Karkhanas	They served Sultan's needs, **producing luxurious** items like silk and gold and silver ware, and storing rare goods.

Local Administration in Delhi Sultanate

AREA	Governed by
Iqtas (Provinces)	**Muqtis** (Governor)
Shiqs (Districts)	**Shiqdar**
Pargana (Blocks)	**Amil (for collecting revenue) [UPSC 2019]**
Village (basic unit of administration)	**Muqaddam** or **Chaudhari**

Economy

Land revenue was pivotal for the Sultanate's income, with a substantial population involved in agriculture. Mismanagement hindered optimal agricultural benefits, which were compensated using the spoils and treasures from their extensive conquests.

Land Categorization (three types):

- **Iqta land**: Lands that officials received as iqtas in lieu of payment for their services.
- **Khalisa land**: Directly controlled by the Sultan, revenues designated for the royal court and royal household expenses.
- **Inam land**: Land granted to religious leaders or institutions.

Agriculture: Food crops, cash crops, fruits, vegetables, and spices were cultivated (account of **Ibn Battutah**), including **sericulture,** using techniques like crop rotation, double cropping, three-crop harvesting, and fruit grafting. Artificial water-lifting devices like the **Persian wheel** were used.

Land revenue ranged from one-third to half.

Trade: Consolidation of the empire led to the **growth of trade** with **better communication** and a **stable currency system**. The cotton, textile and silk industries experienced significant growth.

- **Bengal and Gujarat** were known for quality fabrics, with Indian textiles popular in China and Gujarat excelling in textiles, gold, and silver works. **Sonargao (Bangladesh)** was famed for raw silk and muslin.

Communication

Ibn Battuta describes the postal system of **two kinds:**

The **horse post (uluq)**, was run by royal horses stationed at a distance of every **four miles**.

The **foot-post (dawa)** was at a distance of **one-third of a mile.**

- Rest houses known as **Sarais** were maintained along highways for the convenience of travellers.

The Turks introduced **new techniques** like:

- Manufacturing of **paper** (learnt from Chinese).
- Use of **iron stirrups and armour.**
- Introduction of **spinning wheels.**
- Growth of the **metallurgical industry.**

Social Life

Social life during the Delhi Sultanate was influenced by a blend of Islamic, Persian, Central Asian, and Indian cultural elements.

Women: Subordinate position of women - sati; Purdha system which increased female seclusion.
Divisions: Caste system in Hindu society; **ethnic and racial groups** in Muslim society (Turks, Iranians, Afghans, and Indian Muslims) formed distinct groups with **limited intermarriage.**
Religious discrimination: Muslim nobles held high offices while Hindu nobles rarely received significant positions. Hindus were considered "**zimmis**" or protected people and were required to pay the **jaziya tax**.
Slavery: Both Male and female slaves were being traded in markets and used for a wide range of tasks, including household chores and skilled labour.

Architecture

Art and architecture during the Delhi Sultanate period in India exhibited a unique blend of Islamic, Persian, Central Asian, and Indian influences.

Architectural Elements Include

- **Arches, Domes, Tall minarets**, and **decorative Arabic script**. The arches and domes were adapted from Roman architecture. Although Indians were aware of arches and domes, they didn't use them extensively.
- **Slab and beam construction method**.
- Turks incorporated geometric and floral designs **(Arabesque)** and Quranic inscriptions.

Tughlaq Architecture include

- Sloping walls, a combination of arch, lintel, and beam principles.
- Use of grey sandstone and minimal decoration.

Lodi Architecture included

- Elevated buildings, especially tombs, on raised platforms. Some tombs were situated amidst gardens. Eg: the **Lodi Gardens** in Delhi.
- **Double domes** were a distinctive feature of Lodis architecture, like the **tomb of Sikandar Lodi.**

Music

Amir Khusrau:

- Innovated musical instruments like the **tabla and sitar.**
- Also known as the "**parrot of India**" or "**tuti-i-hind**".
- Played a pivotal role in creating new ragas and qawwalis.
- He also compiled **"Tughlaq Nama"** and lauded Kashmir as a paradise on earth.
- Sufi practices, especially the musical **Sama**, were pivotal in music promotion. **Pir Bhodan** was a renowned musician of his era. **Sarangi** and **Rabab** were musical instruments invented during this period.

Raja Man Singh Tomar of Gwalior consolidated the **Dhrupad** style of classical music.

- Under the patronage of **Firuz Tughlaq**, **Rag Darpan** was translated into **Persian**.
- Dancing also became a significant courtly activity, with performers like **Nusrat Khatun (Musician)** and **Mihr Afroz (Dancer)** during **Jalaluddin Khalji's** reign.

Literature

Characterised by a literary blend of Persian and Indian influences, with the establishment of **Persian as the official language**. Regional languages like Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, and Telugu also flourished during this era.

SCHOLAR	WORKS
Ziauddin Barani	**1. Fatwa-i-Jahandari -** exemplified the art of Persian prose writing. **2. Tarikhi-Firoz Shah -** historical account of the Tughlaq dynasty.
Minhaj-us-Siraj	**Tabaqat-i-Nasari** - a comprehensive history of Muslim dynasties up to 1260AD.
Zia Nakshabi	He was a pioneer in translating Sanskrit stories into Persian. He wrote **Tutinama,** tales of a Parrot, a series of short stories.
Maldhar Basu	Bengali poet who wrote **Sri-Krishna Vijaya**. Received patronage from Bengali Sultans; given the title **Gunaraja Khan.**
Ferishta	**Gulshan-i Ibrahimi or Tarikh-i Firishta** - It provided a traditional narrative of events and dynasties from the times of the Ghaznavid ruler Mahmud (early 11th century) until the time of Firishta's patron, the Sultan of Bijapur Ibrahim Adil Shah II.
WRITER-BOOKS (During Mughal Sultanate) **Hasan Nizami -**Tajul-Ma'asir **Kalhana -** Rajtarangini	 **Chand Baradi** - Prithviraj Raso **Raja Man Singh Tomar -** Man Kautuhal
• **Nusrat Shah** helped in the translation of the Mahabharata into Bengali.	



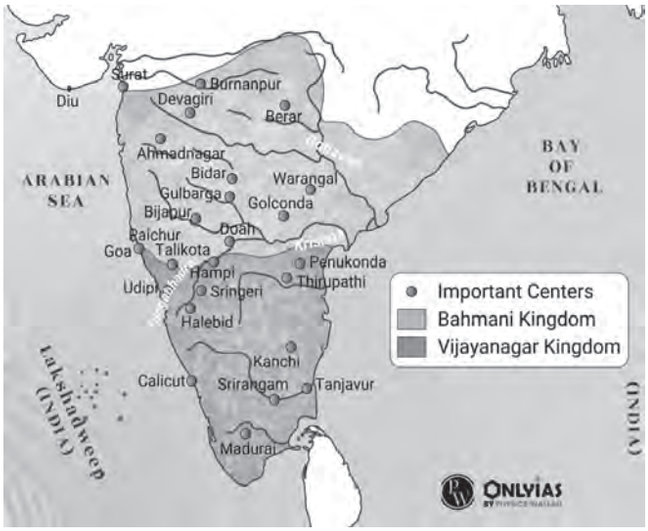
3 Bahamani and Vijayanagara Empire

Introduction

In the early 14th century, the **Deccan** and **South India** were partitioned into **four kingdoms**:

1. **Yadavas of Devagiri** (Western Deccan or present Maharashtra)
2. **Hoysalas of Dvarasamudra** (Karnataka)
3. **Kakatiyas of Warangal** (eastern part of present-day Telangana)
4. **Pandayas of Madurai** (southern Tamil Nadu)

- During the reign of Alauddin Khalji, these States were defeated by General Malik Kafur in 1304 and 1310.
- Muhammad Tughluq's (1325-51) effort to relocate the capital to Devagiri (Daulatabad) was unsuccessful, leading southern subordinates to seek independence when he reverted to Delhi.



Rise of the New Kingdoms

In 1336, the **Vijayanagar kingdom** was established by the **Sangama** brothers, **Harihara and Bukka**, at Vijayanagara (present-day **Hampi**), situated on the **southern bank** of the **Tungabhadra River.**

In 1345, **Zafar Khan** declared independence from the Sultanate and took the title **Bahaman Shah,** inaugurating the **Bahmani dynasty.**

BAHMANI KINGDOM (1347-1527 AD)

Rulers and Their Contributions

Bahman Shah (1347–1358)

- **Introduction:** In 1345, **Bahman Shah (also known as Zafar Khan and Hasan Gangu)** declared independence at **Devagiri** and later shifted his capital to **Gulbarga** (northern Karnataka).
- He faced challenges from rulers in Warangal, Orissa(Jajnagar), and Vijayanagar. After successful campaigns, he styled himself as the **Second Alexander on coins.**
- Administratively, he adopted the Delhi Sultanate's structure, dividing his realm into **four regions (Gulbarga, Daulatabad, Bidar, and Berar)** termed as **'Tarafs'**, each governed by a Governor responsible for administration, revenue collection, and military command.

Mohammed I (1358–1375)

- Attacked Warangal in 1363; captured the **fortress of Golkonda** and the **Turquoise Throne**, which subsequently served as the Bahmani kings' royal seat.
- He established a system of government that was followed by all the successor sultanates as well as the Marathas.
- He appointed a **council of eight ministers** of state:
  1. **Vakil-us-saltana** - Lieutenant and immediate subordinate of the sovereign.
  2. **Waziri-kull** - Supervised the work of all other ministers.

3. **Amir-i-jumla** - Minister of Finance
4. **Wasir-i-ashraf** - Minister of foreign affairs and Master of ceremonies.
5. **Nazir** - Assistant minister for finance.
6. **Peshwa** - Associated with the lieutenant of the kingdom.
7. **Kotwal** or chief of police and city magistrate in the capital.
8. **Sadr-i-jahan** - Chief justice and Minister of religious affairs and endowments.

- Further, he took measures for the **suppression of highway robbery** and built two mosques at Gulbarga.

For a century, successive Sultans, often through usurpation, battled the south with minimal gains. **Warangal was captured in 1425**, but Orissan rulers halted further eastward progress. **Ahmad Wali Shah** relocated the capital from **Gulbarga to Bidar** in **1429.**

Mohammad III (1463–1482): Mohammed Gawan was his lieutenant **(Prime Minister)** who contributed extensively to the dynamic development of the Bahmani Kingdom.

Mohammed Gawan

- He won wars using **gunpowder in the Belgaum battle** against the Vijayanagar Kings.
- **Administrative reforms**:
  - Divided the existing four provinces of the Bahmani Sultanate into **eight**.
  - The royal officers were granted land assignments as payment and were held accountable for their income and expenditure.
- Deccani Muslims and Pardesi (foreigner) Muslim conflicts intensified because of the administrative reforms of Gawan.

The Sultanate gradually broke up into four independent kingdoms: **Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Berar** and **Golkonda.** Further**,** the **Bahmani Sultan** ruled over **Bidar** as a **puppet,** which became the fifth independent kingdom.

- **Bijapur** grew in strength through the annexation of **Bidar** and **Berar**.
- **Ahmadnagar** and **Golkonda** initially acted independently but later united with **Bijapur** against **Vijayanagar**, defeating it in the **Battle of Talikota** or **Rakshasa-Tangadi** in **1565**. Subsequently, the Mughal Empire gradually subjugated the Sultanates within a century.

Additional Information

DYNASTY	CITY	FOUNDER
Adil Shahi	Bijapur	Yusuf Adil Shah
Qutb Shahi	Golconda	Quli Qutub Shah
Nizam Shahi	Ahmednagar	Malik Ahmad
Sharqi Shahi	Jaunpur	Malik Sarwar

Ibrahim Adil Shah-II (1580-1627 A.D.)

1. He was the king of Bijapur.
2. He was a good administrator, artist, Poet and patron of arts.
3. He also authored the book 'Kitab-i-Nauras' in Dakhani.
4. He was given the title 'jagadguru' by his Muslim subject because of his belief in secularism.

Gol Gumbad which is said to be the **largest dome** in the world is situated in Bijapur district of Karnataka. It is the **mausoleum** of **Muhammad Adil Shah** (1626–1656) the seventh Sultan of the Adil Shahi Dynasty.

Golkonda Fort

- Constructed as a mud fort by **Raja Krishna Dev** of the **Kakatiya** dynasty.
- During 1495–1496, the fort was handed over to **Sultan Kali Kutub Khan** as a **Jagir** (land grant).
  - He reconstructed and rechristened the mud fort into a **granite fort** and called the place **Muhammed Nagar.**
- **Qutub Shahi dynasty** took over and made Golkonda its capital.
  - **Mohammad Quli Qutub Shah** enhanced Golkonda Fort's grandeur.

- The Fort houses the tombs of the Qutub Shahis.

- By the 17th century, Golkonda was famous for the **'Kohinoor' diamond.**
- The Fort is popular for its **acoustic architecture,** with its highest point being **Bala Hissar**.
- The **Fateh Darwaza (**or **Victory Gate)** is the entrance to the fort.
- Aurangzeb's 1687 siege of the Golkonda fort lasted eight months, but treachery led to its fall.

VIJAYANAGAR EMPIRE (1336-1650 AD) (KARNATAKA SAMRAJYAMU)

Sources to Study Vijayanagar Empire

- **Literary Sources:**
  - **Manucharitram** (**Telugu**, by **Allasani Peddana**)**:** The story of Manu; provides an account of social condition especially the caste system of Vijaynagar empire
  - **Saluvabhyudayam (** by **Rajanattha Dindima)**: Poems on the wars of Saluva Narasimha**.**
  - **Rayavachakamu (Telugu):** Highlights the relationship of the Nayakas with their patron kingdom Vijayanagara.

Account of Foreign Visitors

TRAVELLER	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	VISITED DURING THE REIGN OF
Ibn Battuta (1333-45)	Morocco	Harihara I
Nicolò de Conti (1420-21)	Italy	Dev Raya I
Abdur Razzak (1443–45)	Persia	Dev Raya II
Afanasii Nikitin (1470–74)	Russia	Muhammad shah III (Bahmani)
Duarte Barbosa Domingo Paes (1520)	Portugal	Krishnadevaraya
Fernao Nuniz(1535-37)	Portugal	Achyuta Deva Raya

- **Epigraphical:** Copper-plate charters in Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu, Sanskrit
- **Numismatic evidence: Gold coins** of **Krishnadeva Raya,** also known as **Varaha coins** (also called **Pon** in **Tamil** and **Honnu** in **Kannada**).

Origin and Expansion

- Four dynasties governed the Vijayanagar kingdom for over three centuries:

Dynasty	Founder	Timeline
Sangama	**HARIHARA I**	1336–1485
Saluva	**SALUVA NARSIMHA**	1485–1505
Tuluva	**VIRANARSIMHA**	1505–1570
Aravidu	**TIRUMALA**	1570–1650

After asserting their independence from **Hoysala rulers** (after the death of **Ballal III), Harihara** and **Bukka** laid the foundation of the Vijayanagara Empire in **1336**.

Hampi was declared a **World Heritage site** by UNESCO in 1986.

- **Vidyaranya**, a respected **Saiva saint** and **Sanskrit scholar**, is believed to have played a pivotal role in founding the Vijayanagara Empire.
- Initially, the capital was near **Anegondi** (**north** bank of Tungabhadra), later shifted to Hoysala town, **Hosapattana** (near **Hampi**; **south** bank of **Tungbhadra)**, and renamed **Vijayanagara** (**city of victory**). Hampi derived its name from the local mother goddess, **Pampadevi.**
- The ruins at Hampi were brought to light in 1800 by **Colonel Colin Mackenzie.** Later, in 1815 he was appointed the **first Surveyor General of India.**
- **Virupaksha,** recognised as a form of **Shiva**, was the guardian deity of the kingdom.

In the popular traditions of Vijayanagara, **Deccan Sultans** are termed as **Ashvapati** or lord of horses; **Rayas** are called **Narapati**, or lord of men.

- All royal orders were signed **"Shri Virupaksha,"** usually in the Kannada script.
- Rulers demonstrated their strong connections with deities through the title **"Hindu Suratrana."** This was a Sanskritization of the Arabic term Sultan.

- They adopted the **emblem** of the **Chalukyas**, **the Boar, or Varaha,** as their **royal insignia.**
- Through **military activities,** several areas were incorporated into the kingdom:
  - The entire area of the **Hoysala kingdom** in **Karnataka**.
  - **Coastal Andhra** (there was a power struggle between the **Gajapati** kingdom of Orissa and **Vijayanagar)**.
  - **Tondai-mandalam** (area in northern Tamil Nadu and southern Andhra) in the south; Prince **Kumara Kampana**, son of Bukka I, won this area. He also defeated **Madurai Sultan**, ending the Sultanate around 1370, as described in **Madura-vijayam**, a Sanskrit work written by Kampana's wife, **Gangadevi**.
  - Until 1500, the Pandya region, including Madurai, was independent of Vijayanagara. Only the northern and central Tamil areas up to the Kaveri delta were governed by the Sangama and Saluva dynasties.
  - **Konkan area**, a narrow strip between the western ghats and the sea.

At its peak, the empire stretched from the river Krishna in the north to the extreme south of the peninsula.

Vijayanagar – Bahmani Conflict

- **Major subjects of conflict:**
  - To control the fertile area between **Krishna and the Tungabhadra (the Raichur doab).**
  - The control of the **Horse trade** that passed through Goa and other ports.
- In spite of continuous fighting, the **Krishna River** acted as the dividing line between the two powers.
- The alliance between the **Bahmani** Kingdom and **Warangal** restricted Vijayanagara's ability to overrun the Tungabhadra Doab.

Important Rulers and Their Contributions

Sangama Dynasty

Harihara (1336-56)

- Defeated the Hoysala ruler of Mysore and executed him.
- His brother, **Bukka** (1356-77) succeeded him.

He founded a new city on the South bank of a tributary to river Krishna and undertook to rule his new kingdom as the agent of a deity to whom all the land south of the river Krishna was supposed to belong. **[UPSC 2015]**

Harihara II (1377-1404)

- Took control over **Belgaum** and **Goa** from the Bahamani kingdom.
- Sent an expedition to northern Sri Lanka.

Deva Raya I (1404-1422)

- He was **defeated by** the Bahmani ruler **Firuz Shah**. Later, he entered into an **alliance with Warangal**, which changed the balance of power in the Deccan and defeated Firuz Shah Bahmani and annexed the entire Reddi territory up to the mouth of Krishna River.
- He constructed a **dam** across the **Tungabhadra** and **Hiradra rivers** and used **canals** to counter the shortage of water.
- **Nicolo Conti** visited Vijaynagar in 1420

Devaraya II (1422–46)

- Greatest ruler of the **Sangama** dynasty.
- He defeated the Gajapati rulers of Odisha.
- According to **Ferishta** (Court HistorIan of Deccan Sultans), he recruited **trained Muslim cavalry** and gave archery training to his soldiers.
- **Abdur Razaak** visited Zamorin of Kochi and the Vijayanagar court during his reign.
- Tried to cross Tungabhadra in 1443 to recover areas like Mudkal, Bankapur, etc., from the Bahamani sultans, but in the end, the two sides had to agree to the existing frontiers.
- According to **Nuniz,** the kings of Sri Lanka and **Tennasserim** (Malay and Burma) paid tribute to him.
- Primogeniture was not established in Vijayanagar, which led to a series of civil wars for the throne after his death.

Saluva Dynasty

Saluva Narasimha

- He established the short-lived **Saluva dynasty** in **1485.** Saluvas were military commanders.
- **Viranarsimha,** his elder son, started the **Tuluva** dynasty in 1505.

Tuluva Dynasty

Krishna Deva Raya (1509–29)

- Greatest among all the Vijayanagara rulers, he was the younger brother of **Vira Narasimha** and built upon the strong military foundation laid by his father and elder brother. He was also known as Andhra Bhoj.
- **Fought battle on two fronts:** Bahmani Sultans (traditional enemy) and the Gajapati rulers of Orissa.
  - Acquired the **Raichur Doab** (1512), subdued rulers of **Orissa** (1514), and defeated the Sultan of **Bijapur** (1520).
- Inscriptions describe his seizure of many Gajapati forts like in **Udayagiri**.
- He put up a **pillar of victory** at **Simhachalam** (Visakhapatnam).
- **Campaigns Against Bahmani:**
  - Established authority along the Malabar and Konkan coasts with the help of the Portuguese.

The Portuguese gained permission to construct a fort in **Bhatkal** (Karnataka).

- He made generous contributions to temples like Srisailam, Tirupati, Kalahasti, Kanchipuram, Tiruvannamalai, and Chidambaram. He added towering gopuras to these temples.
- **Architecture**:
  - Founded a suburban township near Vijayanagar called **Nagalapuram,** named after his mother.
  - He added gopurams to some important temples like **Vijay Mahal** and **Vittala Swamy Temple**.
- Foreign visitors **Domingo Paes, Fernao Nuniz and Duarte Barbosa** praised Krishnadevaraya's character and the opulence of Vijayanagara City.
- He was a gifted scholar of Telugu and Sanskrit. His works include:
  - Renowned Telugu poem **Amuktamalyada** (the story of Andal and a treatise stating the instance of Lord Vishnu in his dream).
  - Madalasa Charita, Satyavedu Parinaya, Rasamanjari, **Jambavati Kalyanam** (Sanskrit),
  - Krishna Deva Rayana Dinachari (Kannada)
- He patronised **Ashtadiggajas**, the **eight** celebrated poets of **Telugu**.
  - **Allasani Peddana** (also known as **Andhrakavita Pitamaga**), his works include: **Manucharitam** and **Harikathasaram**;
  - Madayyagari Mallana, Nandi Thimmana, Dhurjati, Rambhadra, Pingali Surana, Ramarajabhushanudu.
  - **Tenali Ramakrishna** (Court jester and poet): work includes **Panduranga Mahatyam.**
- He also patronised **Chatu Vittalanatha** (Kannada poet; his work **Bhagavatha**); Tamil poet **Haridasa**; **Vyasatirtha** (His disciple was **Purandara dasa**).
- In spite of religious differences, Krishnadeva Raya supported some claimants to power in the Sultanates and took pride in the title "establisher of the Yavana kingdom"
  - Yavana is a Sanskrit word used for the Greeks and other peoples who entered the subcontinent from the northwest.

The taxation system of Krishna Deva:

The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality of the land.

Private owners of workshops paid an industry tax. **[UPSC 2016]**

Achyuta Deva Raya

- After Krishnadevaraya's death, his brother **Achyutadevaraya took the throne.** The support of the powerful **Chellappa** (also known as **Saluva Nayak**), helped him to retain a dominant position.
- **By 1542, Sadasivaraya succeeded him.**

Sadasiva Raya (1543-67)

- Real power laid in the hands of his minister **Rama Raya**, who got support from kinsmen (of Aravidu clan) by appointing them as Nayak of strategic localities.
- Rama Raya was a great warrior and **strategist:**
  - He played off the Bahmani Muslim powers against one another.
  - He entered into a commercial treaty with the Portuguese whereby the supply of horses to the Bijapur ruler was stopped.
  - He fought with the Bijapur ruler. However, later he allied with Bijapur against Golkonda and Ahmadnagar, all of which eventually led to the **Battle of Talikota.**

Battle of Talikota (1565)

- The battle was fought at **Talikota or Rakshasi-Tangadi** in **1565** between **Vijayanagar** and **Deccan states** (combined armies of **Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, and Golconda**).
- **Rama Raya** personally commanded the forces; however, he **lost the battle** and was later executed.
- The victorious Bahmani armies entered Vijayanagar city **for the first time in history** and ransacked it for several months.
- This battle is generally considered the signal for the end of Vijayanagar.

After-effects of the Battle

- King **Sadasiva** escaped to **Penugonda** and later ruled from **Chandragiri** (near Tirupati).
- **Tirumala**, brother of Rama Raya, declared himself king in 1570. He started the **fourth** dynasty, **i.e., the Aravidu dynasty**. However, the real power was held by **Nayak chiefs** in various parts of the country.

Administration of Vijayanagar Empire

- The king was the ultimate authority in the kingdom and supreme commander of the army.
- He was assisted by several high-ranking officers.
  - **Mahapradhani** (Chief minister) who led lower-ranking officers, like **Dalavay** (commander), **Vassal** (guard of the palace), **Rayasam** (secretary/accountant), **Adaippam** (personal attendant), and **Kariya-karta** (executive agents).
- **Administrative divisions** created by **Harihara I** and successors:
  - Kingdom was divided into **Rajyas** or **Mandalam** (provinces), which were further subdivided into **Nadu** (district), **Sthala** (sub-district), and **Grama** (village).

Rajyas or provinces were governed by a **governor** called **Pradhani**.

Prominent rajyas were the Hoysala rajya, Araga, Barakur (Mangalur), Muluvay.

- The **Pradhani** was either a **royal member** or a **military officer** not related to the royal family.

The pradhani had his **own revenue accountants** and **military to assist** in his administration.

- **Smaller administrative divisions** like **Nadu, Sima, Sthala, Kampana**, etc. with the village as its smallest unit.
- The **administrative and revenue status** of the rajyas was **diminished under the Tuluva dynasty** due to the **evolution of the Nayak system** under Krishnadevaraya.

Nayaka System

- "**Nayak"** denotes **military chiefs** in Telugu and Kannada regions. (13th century onward), they usually **controlled forts** and had armed supporters.
- **Revenue assigned** to Nayaks for military service was present in the **Kakatiya kingdom** in the 13th century, which was similar to the **Iqta system** practiced by the Delhi sultanate.
- As per **Nuniz**, each Nayak kept a certain number of military forces (horses and foot soldiers) to serve the king in times of need. Nuniz's account aligns with the Telugu work Rayavachakamu from Krishnadevaraya's era.
- Nayaks paid a portion of revenue to the king during the Mahanavami festival.
- Many Nayakas submitted to the authority of the kings of Vijayanagara, but they often rebelled and had to be subdued by military action. Further, they were transferred from one place to another by the king.
- **Vamsavalis** (family history) of **Palayagars,** who were heirs of old Nayak families, confirm that the Nayak system refined under Krishnadevaraya.
- They belonged to **different castes**, Brahmana as well as non-Brahmana.
  - **Non-Brahmin Nayak individuals had diverse social origins:** Warriors, pastoral clans (Yadava, Billama), peasants (Reddi), merchants (Balija), and more.
  - Some of the prominent Nayak, like **Chellappa** under Krishnadevaraya, were Brahmanas.
- In the Vijayanagar kingdom, this system became evident around 1500, solidified under Krishnadevaraya and Achyuta Devaraya, as mentioned in the inscriptions:

"Nayakkattanam" (Tamil), **"Nayaktanam"** (Kannada), and **"Nayankaramu"** (Telugu).

Amar-Nayak

- It was a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- The Amara-nayakas were military commanders who were given territories to govern by the Raya.
- They **collected taxes** and other dues from peasants, craftspersons, and traders in the area.
- They retained part of the revenue for personal use and for maintaining a stipulated contingent of horses and elephants, providing the kings with an effective fighting force.
- Some of **the revenue was used for the maintenance of temples and irrigation works.**
- Nayaktanam chiefs managed production through **commercial centres (pettai), tax incentives, settlers, and irrigation.**
  - Many of them started as high officials (commanders, governors, accountants, etc.) and served as the king's agents.
- **After the Talikota battle**, Nayak chiefs became more or less independent of the Vijayanagar king.
  - Some of them, like those of Madurai, Tanjavur, Ikkeri, etc., established powerful states controlling many smaller chiefs under them.

Society

- Foreign visitors noted the **opulent lifestyles** of rulers, officials, and elites in cities like Vijayanagar and Bijapur, **contrasting with widespread poverty** and the presence of **slavery**. There was a **widening gap** between the ruling class and the ruled.
- Continuous warfare and the resultant suffering led to **displacement** and **migration** of people.

According to Portuguese writer **Nuniz**, the women in the Vijayanagara Empire were experts in Wrestling, Astrology, Accounting, and Soothsaying.**[UPSC 2021]**

Economy

Taxation

- The State derived its revenue mainly through **taxation**.
- The **tax rate varied** according to the type of crops, soil, method of irrigation, etc.
  - In addition to the land taxes, there were various other taxes, such as property tax, taxes on the sale of produce, profession taxes, military contribution (in times of distress), tax on marriage, etc.

Economic Activity

- Initially agrarian, it transitioned to a commercial economy in the 14th century. A large number of commercial and weaving centres came up in northern Tamil Nadu, Rayalaseema, and coastal Andhra. Artisans like weavers, smiths, and masons became more prominent in society.
- The Vijayanagara era saw significant growth in non-agrarian crafts. These non-agrarian groups were generally called the **Pattadaior** (workshop people) and **Kasayavargam** (the group that pays taxes in cash).
- In the 16th century, Nayakas promoted crafts like weaving with occasional tax incentives under the Nayak system.

Trade

- Inland, coastal, and overseas trade led to the general prosperity of the Kingdom.
- Initially, the trade in Horses in Vijayanagar was controlled by Arab traders who **imported horses** from Arabia and Central Asia, which were important for the rival kingdoms too.
  - Local communities of merchants known as **Kudirai Chettis (horse merchants)** also participated in these exchanges.
- Vijayanagara was also noted for its markets dealing in spices, textiles, and precious stones.
- As the money economy emerged, there was a surge in the use of coins.

The chief gold coin of the Vijayanagar Empire was the **Varaha.** The **Perta** was half a Varaha. **Fanam** was one-tenth a Perta.**[UPSC 2022]**

Trade relations and the arrival of Portuguese:

- Starting in 1498, the **Portuguese** emerged as new participants and aimed to establish trade and military posts on the **west coast.**
- **Textiles** emerged as a **primary attraction for Portuguese** and other European traders arriving in the early 16th century.
- Superior military technology, like muskets, elevated their significance in the era's intricate politics.

Architecture of Hampi/Vijayanagar

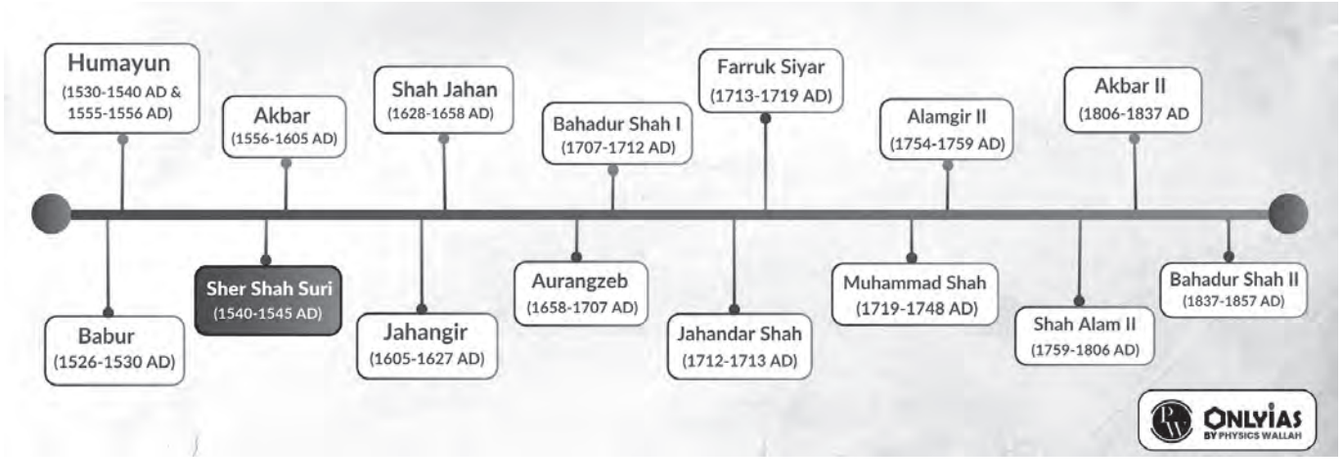
- Accounts of **Nicolo de Conti, Abdur Razzaq, and Afanasii Nikitin**, all of whom visited the city in the fifteenth century, and those of **Duarte Barbosa, Domingo Paes (compared the capital city of Vijayanagara with Rome), and Fernao Nuniz** from Portugal, who came in the sixteenth century provide the descriptions of Vijayanagar city.
- **Fortification of Hampi: Abdur Razzaq** mentioned **seven lines of forts** in Hampi, which encircled not only the city but also its agricultural hinterland and forests.
  - No mortar or cementing agent was employed anywhere in the construction.

- **Great fortress walls** also enclosed **agricultural** tracts.
- The arch and dome on the gateway represented features of **Indo-Islamic** architecture

- Though often characterized as Dravida style, it had its own distinct features which is called the **Provida style**(having a large number of pillars and piers).
- **Urban Core:**
  - **Tombs** and **Mosques** located here have distinctive functions, yet their architecture resembles that of the mandapas found in the temples of Hampi.
  - The entire area was dotted with numerous shrines and small temples, pointing to the prevalence of a variety of cults, perhaps supported by different communities.
- **Water Resources**: As this is one of the most arid zones of the peninsula, elaborate arrangements had to be made to store rainwater and conduct it to the city: **Kamalapuram tank**, **Hiriya canal** (water sourced from **Tungabhadra**, apparently built by kings of the **Sangama dynasty**). The city had an elaborate canal system drawing water from the Tungabhadra.
- Vijayanagar City was divided into the **Sacred** Centre and the **Royal** Centre.
- **Buildings located in the royal centre**: Mahanavami Dibba, Lotus Mahal, Hazara Rama temple, etc.
  - **Mahanavami Dibba**:
    - Positioned atop the city's highest point, with indications of supporting a wooden structure.
    - The structure likely featured rituals linked to Mahanavami, a significant day in the ten-day Hindu autumn festival (known as Dussehra in North India).
    - Described as **the house of victory by Domingo Paes.**
  - **Hazara Rama temple**: Scenes from the **Ramayana** are sculpted on the inner walls of the shrine.
  - While most temples were located in the sacred centre, there were several in the royal centre as well.
- **Sacred Centre** Included:
  - **Gopurams and mandapas**: **Raya Gopurams** or royal gateways often dwarfed the towers on the central shrines. **Kalyan Mandapas,** used for divine weddings, was a notable feature of temple construction during this period. **[UPSC 2019]**
  - Royal portrait sculptures were displayed in temples.
  - **Virupaksha temple** (**Shiva** Temple): Virupaksha was the guardian deity of the kingdom.
    - The hall in front of the main shrine was built by Krishnadeva Raya to mark his accession.
  - **Vitthala temple** (**Vishnu** Temple; Vitthala, a form of Vishnu generally worshipped in Maharashtra.)
    - It has several halls and a unique shrine designed as a chariot. A characteristic feature of the temple complex is the **chariot street** that extends from the temple gopuram in a straight line.
    - It was also famous for **Musical pillars**. **[UPSC 2007]**
    - It represents the culmination of Vijayanagara temple architecture.
    - It was built in the 15th century, during the rule of **Devaraya II**.
  - **Jaina temples** of the pre-Vijayanagara period were also found, indicating the existence of several sacred traditions in the area.

TIMELINE MAJOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS	
1200-1300	Establishment of the Delhi Sultanate (1206)
1300-1400	Establishment of the Vijayanagara Empire (1336); establishment of the Bahmani kingdom (1347); Sultanates in Jaunpur, Kashmir and Madura
1400-1500	Establishment of the Gajapati kingdom of Orissa (1435); Establishment of the Sultanates of Gujarat and Malwa; Emergence of the Sultanates of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Berar (1490)
1500-1600	Conquest of Goa by the Portuguese (1510); Collapse of the Bahmani kingdom, emergence of the Sultanate of Golconda (1518): Establishment of the Mughal empire by Babur (1526)

4 Mughal Empire



The Mughal Empire, **founded by Babur in 1526**, flourished in India for nearly **three centuries**, and shaped India's cultural and administrative fabric. However, post-1707, after Aurangzeb's demise, the empire witnessed a decline, culminating in its **end in 1857**.

BABUR (1526-1530 AD)

Introduction

- **Babur's distinguished ancestry traces its roots to Turko-Mongol conquerors:**
  - **Timur** through his **paternal** lineage, and
  - Mongol ruler **Chengiz Khan** through his **maternal** lineage.
- Babur succeeded his father in ruling the small principality of **Fergana** (a city in Uzbekistan) and inherited his ambition to conquer Samarkand. However, the **financial strain and potential Uzbek threat** led Babur to consider India as a refuge and a strategic base for further operations. When Babur conquered Afghanistan, he believed he had a rightful claim to these territories (like Punjab) as they were annexed by **Babur's ancestor, Timur.**
- The unstable political scenario in India and discontent among **Afghans** and **Rajputs** against **Ibrahim Lodi** facilitated his conquest. He initially received support from rulers like **Daulat Khan Lodi** and **Rana Sanga** for his invasion.
- Babur reunited **Kabul** and **Qandhar** with Northern India after **defeating the Lodis** and the **Rajput** Confederacy.
  - It provided strategic security for the first time after the downfall of the Kushan Empire thus paving the way for a **centralised empire** in India.
  - This unification facilitated **foreign trade,** integrating India with trans-Asian trade networks.

Major conquests in India

- **First Battle of Panipat (1526)** was fought between **Babur** and **Ibrahim Lodi.**
  - Babur had conquered Delhi and Agra with an agenda to subdue the Rajputs and Afghans to solidify his rule.
- **Battle of Khanwa (1527)**
  - Fought between forces of **Babur** on one side and **Rana Sanga** along with **Mahmud Lodi** (brother of Ibrahim Lodi) and **Hasan Khan Mewati** (ruler of Mewat) on the other.
  - He later took the title of Ghazi after this war.
- **Battle of Chanderi (1528):-** Led to Babur's victory over Medini Rai of Chanderi in Malwa.
- **Battle of Ghagra (1529)**
  - **Babur's final battle** was against the **Afghans**. He fought against the combined forces of Mahmud Lodi and Nusrat Shah (Bengal) along the banks of

the Ghagra. However, Babur died in 1530 during his journey from Agra to Lahore.

Cannons were an important addition in sixteenth-century warfare. Babur used them effectively in the **first battle of Panipat.**

Military and Warfare

- Although **gunpowder** was known in India earlier, Babur exemplified its skilled use with artillery and cavalry. **[UPSC 2015]**
- Babur introduced a new warfare method known as the **Tulguma system** in the first battle of Panipat. Tulughma meant dividing the whole army into various units.
- **Horses as a strategic asset:** The Mughals in control of the **Khyber Pass** got a consistent supply of high-quality horses from the West which enhanced their military capabilities.

Architecture

Introduced **Char Bagh (**Persian-style garden layout**);** Constructed mosques in **Panipat** and **Sambhal.**

Literature

- His autobiography, **Tuzuk-i-Baburi(Baburanamah):**
  - Provides an insight into his military strategies.
  - Written in **Turkish**, his mother tongue.
  - Reflects the fondness that Babur had for Indian land.
- With his fervour for detailed writing, Babur established a tradition of keeping memoirs, a practise that was followed by his successors in India.
- He was proficient in **Persian** and **Arabic**.

Religious views

- Despite being an orthodox Sunni, Babur maintained an open-minded approach.
- He was devoted to the Naqshbandiyya Sufi Khwaja Ubaidullah Ahrar.

HUMAYUN (1530-1540 & 1555-1556 AD)

Introduction

Succeeding Babur in 1530, Humayun grappled with **unconsolidated administration** and **financial instability** amidst the rising influence of Afghans in the east. His brother **Kamran** governed Kabul, Qandahar, and Punjab, highlighting fragmented authority and governance challenges.

Major conquests in India

- **Siege of Chunar [Mirzapur](1532):** Humayun defeated the **Afghans at Dardah** and after that besieged Chunar fort (also known as the gateway of eastern India).
- **Battle of Chausa[Buxar](1539):** Suffered defeat at the hands of **Sher Shah Suri,** narrowly escaping the battlefield.
- **Battle of Kannauj (1540):- Sher Shah Suri** achieved complete victory over Humayun and established an independent rule.

Humayun on exile (1540-1555)

- Humayun left India, and during his stay in **Amarkot** (Sindh, Pakistan), **Akbar was born in 1542**.
- Humayun then **travelled to Iran**, seeking assistance from its ruler, Safavid Shah.
- Concurrently, the **Sur dynasty in India was rapidly declining**. In **1555**, Humayun won over the Afghans and **reclaimed Delhi** with support from Bairam Khan.
- In 1556, he **died** due to a **fall from the staircase** of his library.

Humayun's Rule in India

Architecture

- Built a new city in Delhi named **Dinapanah.**
  - Constructed the **Jamali mosque and mosque of Isa Khan** in Delhi.
  - His wife, **Hamida Benu Begum,** started the construction of **Humayun's Tomb.**

Painting

- While in Persia, Humayun laid the **foundation of Mughal painting,** and brought notable painters **Mir Sayyid Ali** and **Abdal Samad** to India.
- He founded the **Nigaar Khana** (painting workshop), which was also a part of his library.

Literature

- His sister **Gul Badan Begum** authored **"Humayun-Nama."**
- He **started the project of illustrating Hamza Nama,** which was continued by Akbar.

SHER SHAH SURI (SUR EMPIRE) (1540-1555 AD)

Introduction

- **Farid,** also known as Sher Khan, was the **son of Hasan Khan** (Jagirdar) in the **Jaunpur kingdom** during Lodi rule. He received the title of Sher Khan after killing a tiger.

Conquests

- In **1540**, he defeated Humayun, marking the establishment of the **second Afghan Empire** in India.

- The Conquest of Sher Shah includes **Malwa** and **Ranthambore** in 1542**, Raisen** (near Bhopal) in 1543, **Chittor** in 1544, and **Kalinjar**(Banda dist., UP) in 1545.
- While besieging the **Kalinjar fort** in Bundelkhand in 1545, Sher Shah **died** in an accidental **gunpowder blast.**
- **Islam Shah(1545-53)** and **Adil Shah Suri (1555)** are considered the **last rulers of this dynasty.**

Administration

He set up a **highly centralised government.**

- **Key ministers included:**
  - **Diwan-i-Wizarat (Wazir)** in charge of Revenue and Finance,
  - **Diwan-i-Ariz** overseeing the Army,
  - **Diwan-i-Risalat** as the Foreign Minister, and
  - **Diwan-i-Insha** handled communications.
- Sher Shah divided his empire into **Sarkars**
  - Each governed by a **Chief Shiqdar** (law and order) and a **Chief Munsif** (judge).
- Each **sarkar** was further subdivided into several **Parganas**,
  - Each administered by a **Shiqdar** (military officer), **Amin** (land revenue officer), **Fotedar** (treasurer), and **Karkuns** (accountants).
- The **village** (Mauza) was the basic revenue unit, with **hereditary chiefs** collecting taxes and serving as intermediaries between the state and peasants.
- **Amin** was responsible for the **construction and repair** of embankments and protecting cultivable land.
  - Other officers include **Khazandar** (Treasurer), **Munsif-i-khazana** (Treasury Inspector), and **Qanungo** (maintaining revenue records).
  - **Flexible revenue system:** Instituted a **crop-rate (Rai)** system in India, calculating state demand as **one-third of the average yield per bigha**, taking into account soil qualities. This amount could be paid in cash, using current market rates.
  - Peasants were provided **Patta** (the area sown, the type of crops cultivated, and the amount each peasant had to pay were written down on a paper) and **Qabuliyat** (Agreement deed).
- An **orthodox Sunni,** he is reputed for **dispensing unbiased justice,** even penalising oppressive nobles or relatives.
  - **Charity on a large scale**, granting stipends to the destitute.
  - Imposed **Jaziya** on the Hindus.

Trade

  - **Streamlined trade imposts** and collected taxes only at points of entry and sale;
  - **Standardised the metal content** in gold, silver, and copper coins;
  - Created a system of **uniform weights & measures** to facilitate trade
  - He issued a **silver coin,** which was termed **Rupiya** weighing **178 grains.**
- **Army:**
  - Divided into three segments i.e. the **Sawaras**, the **Elephants,** and the **Footman**.
  - Personal force, known as **Royal Khalsa Khail**
  - Revived the system of **Dagh** and **Chehra**.
- **Architecture**
  - Restored **Grand Trunk Road** - (**Uttarapatha** of ancient times)
    - **Tamralipti** in Bengal to **Purushpur** in Peshawar
    - Built **Sarais** (rest houses) on the trade routes.
  - Construction of a new **walled city** in Delhi, known as **Purana Qila (Old Fort)**, and
  - Built his own mausoleum in **Sasaram**.

AKBAR (1556-1605 AD)

Introduction

Akbar's reign coincides with the formation of the East India Company and Queen Elizabeth-I of England.

- He was born in 1542 at **Amarkot** during Humayun's refuge and after Humayun died in 1556.
- 13-year-old Akbar was crowned in **Kalanaur, Punjab.**
- Akbar's final resting place is at **Sikandra (near Agra).**

Bairam Khan

He was Akbar's **tutor** and **advisor** to Humayun. He served as a **regent** from 1556-60, overseeing early conquests that expanded the Mughal Empire from **Kabul to Jaunpur**, including territories like Gwalior and Ajmer.

External Challenges: Adil Shah appointed **Hemu** as **wazir** and titled him **Vikramajit** to expel the Mughals. Hemu conquered Agra and proceeded to Delhi. However, **Bairam Khan** defeated him at the **second battle of Panipat(1556)**, neutralising the Suri threat.

Internal Challenge: Bairam Khan was dismissed due to his arrogance towards other nobles, and his rebellion was swiftly crushed by Akbar. He was assassinated en route to Mecca and his family was relocated to Delhi, where his son, **Abdur Rahim**, rose to prominence in Akbar's court and was bestowed the title **Khan-e-Khanan.**

Major conquests in India

- **Second Battle of Panipat(1556): Hemu** and the Afghan forces were defeated in 1556 by the Mughal forces under Akbar.
- **Malwa(1562):** Defeated **Baz Bahadur** (last sultan of Malwa; capital mandu); who later surrendered to Akbar and joined his service.
- **Gondwana(1564): Rani Durgavati** resisted Mughal expansion but was defeated.
- **Mewar(1568):** Captured Chittor after the retreat of **Rana Udai Singh**. With the fall of Chittor, several Rajput states, such as Ranthambore and Jodhpur, also surrendered.
- **Gujarat(1573):** From **Muzaffar Shah**, later Gujarat became a launch pad for the annexation of Deccan.
- **Battle of Haldighati(1576):** Akbar secured a decisive win in the Battle of Haldighati where **Maharana Pratap** suffered severe defeat at the hands of the **Mughal army under Man Singh**. This victory resulted in the acceptance of Akbar's suzerainty by most leading Rajput rulers.
- **Annexation of Bihar and Bengal(1576):** Defeated **Daud Khan**, the Afghan ruler of Bihar and Bengal subsequently annexing both provinces to the Mughal empire in 1576.
- **North and North West:** Defeated **Mirza Hakim of Kabul**. His subsequent conquests of **Kashmir in 1586** and **Sindh in 1591** facilitated further consolidation in the northwest.
- Deccan region: In **1591**, occupied the **Khandesh** region. By 1596, **Berar** was acquired from **Chand Bibi**, the regent of Ahmednagar. By 1600, parts of **Ahmednagar** were under Mughal control.

Central Administration

- **Wazir or Diwan-i-ala:** Headed the revenue department but did not hold a high mansab. He was responsible for all income and expenditure and held control over khalisa, jagir, and inam lands.

Khalisa - land owned by the emperor directly
Jagir - given to Mansabdrs as salary
Inam - assigned to learned and religious men

  - **Inam grants** were granted irrespective of religious beliefs, encouraging cultivation. It attracted talent from foreign lands due to the high salaries of Mughal nobles.
- **Mir Bakshi:** Head of military administration, overseeing armed contingents and war equipment. He personally supervised the **branding of the horses (Dagh)** and **checked the muster-roll (Chehra)** of the soldiers. All orders of appointments of mansabdars and their salary papers were endorsed and passed by him. He was also the head of the intelligence and information agencies.

Intelligence officers (**Barids**) and news reporters (**waqia-navis**) were posted in all parts of the empire.

Akbar also maintained a body of gentleman troopers **(Ahadis)**. They were the emperor's own household troops who were directly recruited by the Mughal emperor himself, mainly from the emperor's own blood relatives and tribesmen.

- **Mir Saman:** In charge of the imperial household, managing supplies and provisions. He supervised the production of various items in Karkhanas(factories) and was responsible for maintaining **court etiquette** and controlling the **royal bodyguards.**

Bernier provides a detailed account of the working of the imperial karkhanas or workshops

- **Sadr-us-Sudur:** He was the head of the ecclesiastical department. His chief duty was to protect the laws of the shari'at. He was also connected with the distribution of charities - cash (Wazifa) and land grants (Suyurghal, In'am, Madad-i-ma'ash).

Kornish a ceremonial salutation symbolising humility and submission a courtier would place his right palm on his forehead and bow his head.

Provincial administration

Divided empire into 12 **provinces** (**suba**), endowing each with a **Diwan, Bakshi, Sadr,** and **Qazi** who replicated the functions of their central counterparts. Provinces were further subdivided into **sarkars** and **Parganas**. **[UPSC 2021].**

- **Suba (Province):**
  - Headed by a **Subedar** responsible for law and order.
  - **Diwan** managed revenue, supervised collections, and increased cultivation.
  - **Taccavi** (loans) to peasants were facilitated through revenue department.
  - **Bakshi** oversaw horses and soldiers.
  - **Sadar** represented central authority, overseeing religious and judicial matters.
- **Sarkar (District):**
  - Headed by **Faujdar** who took care of rebellions and law and order problems, protecting residents and assisting in revenue collection.
  - **Amalguzar/Amil** was the most important revenue collector. A good amil was supposed to increase the land under cultivation and induce the peasants to pay revenue willingly without coercion.
- **Pargana:**
  - Headed by **Shiqdar** (executive officer) who assisted **Amalguzar** in revenue collection.

- **Quanungo** maintained land records.
- **Kotwals,** appointed in towns, maintained law and order.

- **Village:**
  - Headed by **Muqaddam (village headman).**
  - **Patwari** managed village revenue records
  - **Zamindars** assisted in law and order and revenue collection.
  - Forts were administered by a **Qiladar.**

Land revenue system

- **Land Revenue Arrangements include** two stages of revenue collection:
  - Assessment **(Jama)** and Actual collection **(Hasil)**.
- **Land Revenue Systems:**
  - Modified Sher Shah's system and **Raja Todar Mal** refined it further by standardizing land measurement and classification.
  - Revenue was set at **one-third of average produce** and was primarily **paid in cash.**
  - **Zabt/Zabti System** (enforced by Sher Shah and adopted by Akbar), associated with Raja Todar Mal, also called **Todar Mal's Bandobast.**
- The **Dahsala System**, introduced in **1580 AD**, calculated revenue based on the **average yield of the past ten years**, factoring in local prices. Parganas with similar productivity were organised into distinct assessment circles.
- Land was categorised into the following with their respective assessment rates:
  - **Polaj** (under cultivation almost every year),
  - **Parati** (uncultivated land),
  - **Chachar** (fallow for two to three years),
  - **Banjar** (fallow more than five years)
- **Karoris** were appointed for collection and audit of revenue.
- **Amils** (revenue collectors) were encouraged to support peasants by providing Taccavi loans for diverse needs and enabling repayment in manageable instalments.

Methods of Assessment used during Akbar's Reign

- **Batai/Ghalla Bakhshi:** Crop-sharing between the cultivator and the state, paid in cash or kind. It includes
  - Batai or Bhaoli (Crops divided after reaping);
  - Khet-Batai (Fields divided after sowing);
  - Lang-Batai (Grain divided after harvest and stacking)
- **Hast-o-bud:** Officials estimated total produce and fixed the revenue demand by inspecting the village, and may consider the number of ploughs to assess the total produce.
- **Kankut:** Land was measured, and yield per unit for each crop was estimated and applied to the area under cultivation.
- **Nasaq:** Used previous assessments to calculate the state revenue.

Mansabdari system

The term **"mansabdar"** referred to an individual who held mansab, meaning a position or **rank**. It was a **grading system** used by the Mughals to fix (1) **rank**, (2) **salary,** and (3) **military responsibilities.**

- Rank and salary were determined by a **numerical value** called **zat.** The higher the zat, the more prestigious the noble's position in court and the larger his salary.
- The mansabdar's **military responsibilities** required him to maintain a specified number of **sawar** or **cavalrymen.**
  - The mansabdar brought his cavalrymen for review, got them registered, their horses branded, and then received money to pay them as salary.
  - Mansabdars received their salaries as revenue assignments called **jagirs.**
  - Jagirs were somewhat like iqtas. But unlike muqtis, most **mansabdars did not actually reside in or administer their jagirs.** The revenue was collected for them by their servants while the mansabdars themselves served in some other part of the country.
  - Jagirs were subject to regular transfers and were **not hereditary.** Further, these were **reverted to the state upon Mansabdar's death.**

For revenue purposes, all the land was divided into two - the **Jagir** and **Khalisa**.
The land revenue collected from the **Khalisa went to the royal treasury**, while that **from Jagir went to mansabdars.**

- Ranks ranged from 10 to 5,000, with exceptional figures like **Raja Man Singh** and **Mirza Aziz Koka** holding 7,000. The system led to a diversity of nobility, initially Central Asians and Persians, but later included Rajputs and Shaikhzadas (Indian Muslims).

Rajput Policy

- Adopted a **conciliatory policy,** forming **matrimonial** alliances with their families and assigning high court positions to them.
  - He married **Harkha Bai** (daughter of Raja Bhar Mal of Amber) and princesses from **Bikaner and Jaisalmer.**

Architecture

- **Forts: Agra Fort** was constructed using **red sandstone**. Additional forts were erected in Lahore and Allahabad.
  - Inside Agra Fort, Akbar built the **Jahangiri Mahal,** incorporating Hindu design principles inspired by the Man Mandir.
- **Fatehpur Sikri (The City of Victory):** It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It includes:
  - **Buland Darwaza (built after the victory over Gujarat in** 1572), **Jama Masjid,** Jodha Bai's palace, the **Panch Mahal** designed akin to a Buddhist Vihara, the **Diwan-i-Khas,** the **Diwan-i-Aam**, and **Sheikh Salim Chisti's tomb.**

Religious views

- **Reformative steps**
  - Stopped the forcible conversion of prisoners of war.
  - **Abolished** the **tax on pilgrimage** in 1563 and **jizya** in 1564.
  - The practise of sati by force was outlawed; allowed widow remarriage, and
  - Permitted Hindus to repair and build new temples.
- Construction of **Ibadat Khana** (Hall of Prayers) at Fatehpur Sikri
  - Scholars from various religions including Hinduism, Jainism, Christianity, and Zoroastrianism were welcomed for **religious discussions.**
  - The scholars at Ibadat Khana included Pursottam Das, Hira Vijaya Suri, Dastur Maharji Rana, Monserrate, and Acquaviva.
- **Din-i-Ilahi**
  - Akbar introduced a **new religio**n called Din-i-Ilahi or **Tauhind-i-Ilahi** (Divine Monotheism) in 1582.
  - It emphasised belief in one God and "Sulh-i-Kul" incorporating positive aspects from various religions with a rational foundation as documented by **Badayuni.** Despite efforts, Din-i-Ilahi **did not gain widespread acceptance** and gradually faded after Akbar's demise.
  - During Akbar's lifetime, only a few individuals including Birbal, Abul Fazl, and Abul Faizi followed this new faith.

Sulh-i-Kul (Universal Peace)

- **Abu'l Fazl** describes the ideal of Sulh-i-Kul as the cornerstone of **enlightened rule** through **religious tolerance** and **inclusivity**. In Sulh-i-kul, all religions and schools of thought had **freedom of expression** but on the condition that they did not undermine the authority of the state or fight among themselves.

- Jain monk **Hari Vijay Suri** visited and stayed for a few years in Akbar's court and was honoured with the title of **Jagadguru.**

Literature

- **Akbar Nama** was compiled by Abul Fazl. It contained three volumes of the history of Akbar's reign.
  - 1st volume dealt with Akbar's ancestors.
  - 2nd volume recorded the events of Akbar's reign.
  - 3rd volume was the Ain-i-Akbari.
- **Ain-i-Akbari deals with**
  - Akbar's administration, army, revenues, and geography of his empire.
  - Details about the traditions and culture of the people living in India.
  - Statistical details about crops, yields, prices, and wages.

Akbar maintained a **Maktab khana ('house of translations')** in Fatehpur Sikri in 1574. Its primary intention was **inter-religious cooperation.**

- **Translations**
  - **Mahabharata,** renamed **'Razmnama'** (Book of Wars) was translated into Persian. It was completed in 1589 under the supervision of master artist **Daswant.**
  - **Leelavati** by Bhaskaracharya was translated by Faizi into Persian.
  - Akbar Nama was translated into English by Henry Beveridge in the early twentieth century.

Kitab khana was a library, i.e., a place where the emperor's collection of manuscripts was kept and new manuscripts were produced.

- **Calligraphy,** the art of handwriting, gained prominence.
  - **Muhammad Husayn al-Katib Kashmiri (c. 1575-1605)**, was the most celebrated calligrapher at the court of the emperor Akbar, who gave him **the title of Zarrin Qalam (Golden Pen). He continued to work at the court of Jahangir and his recorded work is dated between (1580-1608 AD).** Akbar's favourite was the **Nastaliq**

Paintings

- Prominent painters: **Daswant** and **Basawan.**
  - **Madonna and Child (1580)** by **Baswan** is an important work of the Mughal School of Painting.
- **Akbar Hamzanama (best known for the enormous illustrated manuscript)**
  - This magnificent project was completed under the supervision of two Persian masters — **Mir Sayyid Ali** and **Abd us Samad.**

Akbar's Navratanas: Akbar's court was said to have a **group of intellectuals** known as the Navaratnas.

Abul Fazl	Royal court historian who wrote **Akbar Nama**.
Faizi (Raj Kavi)	Persian poet and elder brother of Abul Fazl
Fakir Aziao Din	A Sufi mystic and a key advisor to Akbar.
Tansen (Ramatanu Pandey)	Renowned musician, a court musician to King Ramachandra, who accepted Islam under Sufi mystic Muhammad Ghaus of Gwalior. Tansen was the title given to him by Raja Vikramjit of Gwalior **[UPSC-2019]**. Akbar bestowed upon him the name "Mian."
Birbal (Kavi Priya)	A courtier bestowed with the titles Raja and Birbal by Akbar. Died fighting Yusuf Shahis on the Northwest frontiers
Raja Todar Mal (Title: Diwan-i-Ashraf)	Finance minister overseeing the revenue system. Introduced standard weights, measurements, and revenue districts.
Raja Man Singh	A Mansabdar, the grandson of Akbar's father-in-law.
Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khanan	A great poet; translated Babarnama into Turki, Son of Bairam Khan.
Mulla Do-Piyaza	Advisor and Wazir of the Mughal emperor Akbar.

JAHANGIR (1605-1627 AD)

Introduction

- **Nur-ud-din Jahangir**, known as **'Salim'** after Sufi saint **Sheikh Salim Chishti,**
- He was born to the Rajput princess Mariam-uz-Zamani (also known by the name Jodha Bai).
- Jahangir's final resting place is in **Lahore.**

Military Campaigns/Conquests

- **Territorial expansion:** Very little progress was made during his reign.
- **Failed rebellion** by his son **Khusrau**, backed by **Guru Arjan Dev,** led to the capture of Khusrau and the **execution** of **Guru Arjun Dev (the first Sikh guru to be executed by the Mughals).**
- **Bengal:** Jahangir tamed Afghan rebel **Usman Khan** in the region.

Guru Tegh Bahadur:

- **2nd sikh guru** to be executed by Mughals in 1675 on the orders of Aurangzeb.

- **Mewar:** Through his son **Khurram** (Shah Jahan), he brought Mewar to terms after a military campaign against Rana Amar Singh.
- **Deccan:** In 1608, Ahmad Nagar declared independence under **Malik Ambar.** During Jahangir's reign, the Mughal territory in the Deccan remained unchanged.

Two Englishmen visited during Jahangir's reign:

- **William Hawkins (1608):** He failed to obtain Jahangir's consent to establish a factory. He was given a **Mansab of 400** and the title **'English khan'** as he was well-versed in the Turkish language.
- **Sir Thomas Roe (1615)**: He got permission to establish a British factory in **Surat.**

Nur Jahan's influence

Jahangir was more interested in art and painting than in government. His Persian wife Mehrunnisa, renamed Nur-Jahan by Jahangir, became the real power behind the throne.

- **Coins** were issued in her name, and she was given the title of **Badshah Begum.**
- Nur-Jahan, who ruled the empire for ten years, lost her power and influence after Jahangir's death in December 1645.

Administration

- He added the **"duh-aspah-sih-aspah"** system, a **modification** of the Mansabdari system, where a Mansabdar could maintain a larger cavalry **without raising his zat rank.**
  - **Duh-aspah -** a trooper with two horses.
  - **Sih-aspah -** a trooper with three horses.
- Jahangir was the **first** monarch who realised that the Marathas were 'the hub of affairs' in the Deccan and tried to win them over to his side. The policy was continued by Shah Jahan.

Architecture

- **Moti Masjid** was built by Jahangir in Lahore.
- **Shalimar Garden** was constructed in Kashmir.
- **Zanjr-i-adal** (chain of justice) was built at Agra Fort to serve as a facility for those seeking royal justice.

Art: Under Jahangir, the Mughal paintings achieved **naturalism** and **scientific accuracy** of the highest degree.

- He was particularly interested in the **portrait style.** He introduced the use of **halos** (circular divine light behind the head) in portraits during his reign. **[UPSC 2019]**

- The **Muraqqas** (individual paintings to be mounted in albums) became popular.
- Some eminent painters in his courts were
  - **Aqa Riza**
  - **Abdul Hasan (Nadir-ul-Zaman) -** son of Aqa Riza
  - **Ustad Mansoor (Nadir-ul-Asra) -** a leading nature painter.
  - **Bishan Das**
- Jahangir's influence reached as far as the great **Dutch** painter **Rembrandt**, who drew inspiration from Mughal miniatures.

Literature

- Jahangir wrote his auto-biography **Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri** in **Persian**. It tells about his great interest in arts and his efforts to achieve scientific correctness in depicting flora and fauna

Religious views

- Jahangir continued his father's **Sulh-i-Kul** in his religious policy.
- He frequently visited the **Dargah of Muinuddin Chisti.**
- He was open to diverse spiritual interactions.
- He met with **Gosain Jadrup, a Vaishnavite ascetic**, and had interactions with **Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi,** a leading figure of the Naqshbandi Sufi order, critical of Akbar's policies.

SHAH JAHAN (1628-1658 AD)

Introduction

Following Jahangir's death in 1627, Shah Jahan assumed the throne in Agra with support from nobles and the military. Under his emperorship, the Mughals reached the peak of their architectural achievements and cultural glory.

Major events/battles in India

- In 1629, he defeated Shivaji's father, **Shahaj**i in the **Khandesh** region.
- In 1632, he defeated the **Portuguese** at Hugli (for illegal trade practises).
- **Deccan:** Launched campaign against **Ahmadnagar, Bijapur,** and **Golconda.**
- **North-west:** the campaign to seize Balkh from the Uzbegs was unsuccessful and Qandahar was lost to the Safavids. Afghan noble **Khan Jahan Lodi** rebelled and was defeated.
- **Bundelas** were defeated and **Orchha** seized.

Administration

- There was an exceptional **increase in the number of mansabdars**, consuming more than three-fourths of the revenues of the state.
- He neglected vital aspects of armoury, took little interest in developing better firearms and made no investments in the science of ordnance.
- The highest form of submission **Sijda (complete prostration)** was replaced with **Chahar Taslim (mode of salutation done four times)** and **Zaminbos** (kissing the ground).

Religious Policy

- Orthodox religious policy, reflecting the **influence of revivalist forces** within Islam, notably the **Naqshbandi Sufis.**
- There was a departure from Akbar's more liberal and inclusive policies.

Architecture

- The Mughal empire reached its **architectural zenith under Shah Jahan.**
- In **1631**, Shah Jahan started the construction of the **Taj Mahal** in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal (Arjumand Bano Begum). It was completed in **1648**.
  - **Ustad Isa** and **Isa Muhammad Effendi** were the chief architects, while Ismail Khan designed the dome of the Taj Mahal.
- During Shah Jahan's reign **mosque-building** flourished, with notable constructions including:-
  - **Moti Masjid** in **Agra** (crafted entirely in white marble).
  - **Sheesh Mahal** and **Mussaman Burj** in Agra.
  - **Jama Masjid** in **Delhi** was built using red stone.
- Shah Jahan's reign saw the pinnacle of **fort-building**, which included the **Red Fort** in Delhi with the **Rang Mahal, Diwan-i-Aam,** and **Diwan-i-Khas.**
- Shah Jahan is also credited with the construction of **Shalimar Bagh** in Lahore and the establishment of the **city of Shahjahanabad.**
- The famous **Peacock Throne** in the Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audiences, or Ministers' Room) in the Red Fort of Delhi was built for Shah Jahan.

Literature

- Inayat Khan authored 'Shah Jahan Nama.' (an unillustrated chronicle of the reign of Shah Jahan)
- His court historian Abdul Hameed Lahori authored 'Badshah Nama.' (an illustrated group of works written as the official history of the reign of Shah Jahan)

War of succession: In 1657-1658, there was conflict over succession amongst Shah Jahan's sons. Aurangzeb was victorious and his three brothers, including Dara Shukoh,

were killed. **Shah Jahan was imprisoned** for the rest of his life in Agra

- **War of Deorai (Ajmer)(March 1659):** This was the **final war** between Aurangzeb and Dara Shikoh, in which Aurangzeb was victorious.

Dara Shikoh (1615–1659)

Eldest son of Shah Jahan, described as a "**liberal Muslim**". He found a close connection between Hinduism and Islam.

- His works include **"Majma-ul-Bahrain" (Mingling of Two Oceans) and "Sirr-i-Akbar" (Great Mystery)**
- He also translated the **Upanishads** and Hindu texts like the **Bhagavad Gita** from Sanskrit to Persian.

AURANGZEB (1679 - 1707 AD)

Introduction

- Aurangzeb (**Alamgir, "World Conqueror"**) rose to power in **1658**.
- His reign of fifty years falls into two equal parts:
  - **First twenty-five years:** He resided in the **north**, chiefly at Delhi, and personally occupied himself with the affairs of northern India, leaving the Deccan in the hands of his Viceroys.
  - **Around 1681:** He was prompted by the rebellion of one of his sons, Prince Akbar, to go to the Deccan. He never returned to Delhi, died at Ahmad Nagar in 1707.

Major events/battles

- **Battle of Saraighat (1671):** Aurangzeb conducted military expeditions against the Ahoms.
- **North:**
  - Revolt of the **Jats (Mathura -1669)** had limited success.
  - Revolts of **Satnamis(1673)** of the Haryana region and the **Sikhs(1675)** were crushed.
  - In **Marwar(1678)**, post the death of Jaswant Singh, rebellions were suppressed.
  - The rebellion of the **Rana of Mewar** concluded with a **peace treaty** signed in **1681**.
- **Deccan:**
  - **Adil Shahi** ruler Sikandar Adil Shah of **Bijapur was defeated** in **1686** and **Golkonda** was captured in **1687** after defeating the ruler Abul Hasan Qutub Shah.
  - Mughal forces were defied by **Shivaji**, through **guerrilla tactics** (till his death in **1680**), later continued by sons of Shivaji till the death of Aurangzeb.

Religious views

- Strict religious policy marginalising non-Muslims led to various uprisings
  - **Jat rebellion in 1669 and 1685,**
  - **Satnami rebellion in 1672,**
  - **Execution of the ninth Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur**, which led to **the Sikh rebellion in 1675.**
- Prohibited **court music**, drinking of **wine**, and use of **opium.**
- Reinstated **Jizya** and **pilgrimage tax** on Hindus
- He **dismissed** court **musicians** and royal **painters** and discontinued the practice of **Jharokha darshan**.
- He replaced the Solar calendar with the Hijra calendar under the Influence of **Nakshabandi Sufi** order.
- **Muhtasibs were** appointed to **uphold moral codes and sharia.**
- Discontinued **"abwab,"** a tax levied on the lands over and above the original rent.
- For rigorous adherence to Islamic principles, he was often referred to as **Zinda Pir (living saint).**

Nobles

- Heredity was accorded the highest priority, and **Khanazadas** (sons and descendants of mansabdars) constituted almost half the nobility.
- The number of Hindu officials was maximum during his reign.
  - **Marathas** constitute nearly 17% of the Mansabdars and Indian Muslims known as **Shaikhzadas**, around 12%. Further, scribal communities like **Khattris** and **Kayasthas** were also appointed as Mansabdars.
- The title **Mirza Raja** was accorded by Aurangzeb to his two highest-ranking nobles, Jai Singh and Jaswant Singh. Titles could be earned or paid for.

Relation with East India Company

Mughals held English and other companies responsible for the ongoing piracy in the Indian Ocean which led to the **Ganj-i-Sawai** incident(1695). It was an attack by the pirates on a Mughal ship used for trade and annual pilgrimages to Mecca.

Architecture

- Built a mausoleum for his wife **Rabia-Ud-Daurani** in Aurangabad. It is also known as **"Bibi Ka Makbara/ The Second Taj".**
- He also built the **Moti Masjid** inside the Red Fort and **Badshahi mosque (Lahore).**

Art and Literature

- He was an accomplished **Veena player.** However, Aurangzeb is **perceived as averse to music.**

- Aurangzeb gave patronage to **Ishwar Das Nagar** who authored **Fatuhat-i-Alamgiri,** which provides details of Aurangzeb's reign.
- **Nuskha-i-Dil Khusha** written by **Bhimsen Burhanpuri,** a Bundela officer in the Mughal service, was written during Aurangzeb's reign.

LATER MUGHALS

Bahadur Shah I (1707-1712 AD)

Also known as **Muazzam,** he ascended to the throne in his 60s. He died around 1712 AD during a campaign against Banda Bahadur, a rebel Sikh leader.

Administration

- He adopted a generous policy towards nobles, granting them their preferred territories, causing financial strains, with the real power purportedly held by the wazir, **Zulfiqar Khan.**
- Mughal historians have entitled him **"Shah-i-Bekhabar,"** due to his administrative inefficiency.

Religious policy: Demonstrated **tolerance towards Hindus**, although he didn't abolish the jizya tax.

Events/conquests

- **Hesitancy in reconciliation** with **Marathas** and failure to grant them complete concessions led to persistent conflicts.
- **Initiated peace with Guru Gobind Singh,** but subsequent Sikh rebellions post the Guru's death saw him leading campaigns against the Sikhs.
- Recognised the independence of **Marwar and Mewar** but couldn't make them staunch allies.

Jahandar Shah (1712-1713 AD)

After Bahadur Shah's death, Mughal politics changed, with **nobles becoming the king-makers** and the emperors becoming their puppets. Jahandar Shah emerged as the **first puppet ruler**, with **Zulfiqar Khan**(Wazir) holding real power.

Administrative policies

- He established friendly ties with Marathas, Rajputs, and other Hindu chieftains.
  - **Ajit Singh of Marwar** was given the title of **"Maharaja"**
  - **Jai Singh of Amber** was given the title **Mirza Raja Sawai**.
  - Maintained a suppressive stance against Banda Bahadur and the Sikhs.
- He ordered the **abolition of the Jizya tax.**
- Tried to **resolve the financial woes** of the empire by regulating the allocation of jagirs and ensuring nobles maintained their official troop quotas, but faced criticism for introducing the **Ijarah system**, or revenue farming.

Ijara system was a revenue farming system where the task of collecting land revenue was accorded to the highest bidder in lieu of a lump sum payment.

His reign ended in **1713** after the defeat at Agra by **Farrukh Siyar,** his nephew.

Farruk Siyar (1713-1719 AD)

He was known for his **incapacity to rule** and dependence on unworthy advisors. He came to power with the help of the **Sayyid brothers**, **Abdullah Khan (Wazir)** and **Husain Ali Khan Baraha (Mir Bakshi)**.

- **He abolished Jizyah** and the **pilgrim tax** were **abolished** and
- **In 1717 CE**, Farrukh Siyar granted significant **trading privileges** to the **East India Company** and exempted customs duties for their trade through Bengal.

Death: Unwilling to cede personal authority to the Sayyid brothers, Farruk Siyar was **killed** in **1719**.

Muhammad Shah (Rangeela) (1719-1748 AD)

He ousted the **Sayyid brothers** around 1720 with help from **Nizam-ul-Mulk**, **Chin Qilich Khan**, and **Muhammad Amir Khan**

Administration: Under his reign, several states declared independence:

- **Nizam-ul-Mulk** ruling the **Deccan**,
- **Saadat Khan** leading **Awadh**, and
- **Murshid Quli Khan** governing **Bihar, Bengal, and Orissa**.

The fragility of the Mughal Empire was exposed when Nadir Shah invaded India around 1739 AD.

Nadir Shah's Invasion:

- **Iranian** emperor, recognised for expelling **Afghans from Iran,** entered India with a decisive victory at the **Battle of Karnal in 1739,** leading to the **surrender of Muhammad Shah.** He plundered Delhi and looted treasures like the **Kohinoor diamond** and the **Peacock throne.**
- It exposed the vulnerability of the Mughal Empire, diminishing its prestige and **emboldening regional powers.**

Ahmad Shah Abdali (successor of Nadir Shah)

- He invaded India multiple times.
- Abdali had seized Delhi and acknowledged **Alamgir II** as the Mughal emperor, leaving an Afghan caretaker and appointing **Najib-ud-Daula**, the **Rohilla chief**, as his 'supreme agent.'

In **1758**, Maratha chief, **Raghunath Rao**, expelled Najib-ud-Daula and conquered Punjab. Seeking vengeance, **Abdali** returned in **1759** and decisively defeated the **Marathas** at the **Third Battle of Panipat in 1761** with his final invasion occurring in 1767

Alamgir II (1754-1759 AD)

- **The famous Battle of Plassey, 1757 AD, took place during his reign. This battle facilitated the Brit**ish East India Company's takeover of Bengal.

Shah Alam II (1759-1806 AD)

- In 1764, he, alongside **Mir Qasim** and **Shuja-ud-Daula,** waged war against the English East India Company but faced defeat at the **Battle of Buxar.** Subsequently, he resided in Allahabad as a **British pensioner** (first one) until 1772, when he returned to Delhi under **Maratha protection.**

Akbar II (1806-1837 AD)

- Son of Shah Alam II, reigned under British protection post-1803 AD capture of Delhi by the British, noted for bestowing the title of **"Raja" upon Ram Mohan Roy.**
- Acknowledged as a distinguished poet, initiated the **Phool Walon Ki Sair,** promoting Hindu-Muslim unity.
- During his reign, the East India Company discontinued calling itself the subject of the Mughal emperor and stopped issuing coins in the name of the Mughal emperor.

Bahadur Shah II (1837-1857 AD)

- **Last Mughal Emperor** and celebrated Urdu poet under the pen name **"Zafar."**
- Played a pivotal role in the **1857 Revolt** and was proclaimed the Emperor of India by the rebels.
- Post-revolt, he faced exile in Rangoon (modern-day Myanmar) and died there in 1862.

Reasons for the decline of Mughals

- **Weak Leadership and Succession Conflicts:** The lack of clear succession laws led to a war of succession, weakening the empire, especially post-Aurangzeb.
- **Aurangzeb's Policies:** Religious orthodoxy strained relations with non-Muslim subjects.
- **Economic Strain and Administrative Inefficiency: Shah Jahan**'s extravagant **construction projects** and **Aurangzeb's** prolonged **southern campaigns** severely depleted the treasury. The empire became **too vast to manage**, and distant provinces gained independence due to the administrative inefficiency of later Mughals.
- **Foreign Invasions and Internal Strife:** Invasions by **Nadir Shah** and **Ahmad Shah Abdali** destabilised the empire, causing further financial strain. **Corruption** and **internal strife** eroded the administrative framework.
- **Rise of the Independent States and Regional Powers:** The 18th century saw the rise of virtually independent states like **Hyderabad, Bengal, and Awadh**, contributing to the empire's disintegration. The **Marathas** consolidated in Western India, nurturing ambitions for a larger empire challenging Mughal authority.
- **Deteriorating Land Relations:** The use of **Jagirs** (temporary land allotments) and **Paibaqi** (revenue from reserved lands) over direct treasury payments led to conflicts between nobles and zamindars.
- **Advent of European Powers:** The emergence of the **British** and other **European** colonial powers marked the advent of new political entities, posing challenges that the crumbling Mughal Empire found nearly impossible to surmount.



5 The Marathas

Introduction

The Marathas, under Shivaji's leadership in the 1670s, were instrumental in **diminishing the Mughal power** and replacing it effectively in central India by the mid-18th century. They also established control in Thanjavur from 1674 and maintained it until Serfoji II's demise in 1832.

About Marathas:

- Mix of various **agrarian castes** who distinguished themselves by their **military service** traditions, earning land grants in return.
- They served in the armies of the **Bahamani kingdom** and successor states. **Bijapur** rulers like **Ibrahim Adil Shah** used them as a counterbalance to their Deccani and Afaqi units.

Causes for the Rise of Maratha

- **Region and Terrain:** They resided in the narrow, strategically defensible region of **Konkan**, known for its rugged mountains and secluded valleys.
- **Character and Skills:** With a heritage of military valour and proficiency in **guerrilla warfare**, executing **swift surprise attacks** and autonomously adapting tactics as needed.
- **Bhakti movement**, led by **Tukaram, Ramdas,** and **Eknath**, with their Marathi hymns created widespread societal bonds and unified them.
- **Other reasons:** The downfall of **Bijapur and Golconda**, coupled with exhaustive Deccan wars, led **Shivaji** to **unite the fragmented Marathas**.

SHIVAJI (1627–1680 AD)

Introduction

Born in **Shivner** near Junnar to **Shahji Bhonsle** and **Jijabai**, Shivaji was influenced by saints like **Tukaram** and **Ramdas (his guru)**.

Military Conquests

At a young age, he acquired the **Torna fort** from Bijapur Sultan in **1646**. Further, he captured and rebuilt the **Raigad Fort**. He took control of the forts of **Baramati**, **Indapura**, **Purandhar**, and **Kondana.**

- **In 1656**, he became popular as he wrested **Javali** (Satara district) from its Maratha chief, took control of the **highlands (Maval region)** and constructed the **Pratapgarh fort**, paving the way for further expansion.
- Recognising **naval significance**, he built a fleet to confront the **Sidis of Janjira** who managed several ports and had a large navy; he couldn't overpower them due to ineffective artillery.

Confrontation Against Bijapur

- **Aurangzeb's** withdrawal from the Deccan to join the war of succession post-Shah Jahan's death and the rise of **Adil Shah II** in Bijapur created circumstances for the conflict.
- **Shivaji** attacked the **Bijapur**, occupying **northern Konkan**. This provoked Ali Adil Shah II to send **General Afzal Khan in 1659,** whose forces desecrated Hindu sites, including the revered **Pandharpur**.
- Shivaji responded by killing Afzal Khan followed by seizing of **Panhala fort** and territories in southern Konkan and Kolhapur.

Shivaji and the Mughals

- **1658**: Aurangzeb became Emperor and assigned **Shaista Khan** (Mughal governor of Deccan) in the Deccan the task to quell Shivaji, **resulting in the capture of Pune and Chakan.**
- **1663**: Aurangzeb recalled Shaista from the Deccan when Shivaji infiltrated **Poona** and struck Shaista Khan's camp.
- **1664**: Shivaji plundered **Surat**, a significant Mughal port, prompting **Aurangzeb** to deploy **Raja Jai Singh** to counter him and capture Bijapur. With a comprehensive encirclement, Shivaji was forced to negotiate, paving the way for the **Treaty of Purandar** in **1665.**

Treaty of Purandar:

- Shivaji had to surrender 23 forts to the Mughals.
- He was to serve as **Mughal Mansabdar** and join the **Mughals against Bijapur.**
- The Mughals recognised the right of Shivaji to hold certain parts of the Bijapur kingdom.

- As Shivaji was exempted from **personal service** of the Mughals, his minor son **Sambhaji** was granted a **Mansab** of **5000 zat.**

- **1666:** Jai Singh persuaded Shivaji to visit the **Mughal court in Agra** where he faced disrespect and humiliation. He was put under **house arrest**, which he successfully **escaped.**
- **1670**: **Aurangzeb** reclaimed a portion of Shivaji's jagir in **Berar**. Shivaji retaliated by withdrawing his troops from the Mughal service, reclaimed the forts surrendered in the **Treaty of Purandar** and raided **Surat** again. By **1672**, the Marathas imposed a **Chauth** (one-fourth of the revenue) as an annual tribute on **Surat.**
- **1672: The Battle of Salher:** Marathas won decisively against the Mughals. Salher Fort is situated near present-day Nashik.

Coronation and Deccan Campaigns

In **1674**, Shivaji was crowned at Raigarh, assuming the title of **"Chhatrapathi"** (supreme king). The day of his consecration marked the commencement of a new era, the **Rajyabhisheka saka**.

- He described himself as "the protector of cows and brahmins" **(gobrahmance pratipalak)** and "the upholder of dharma" **(dharma parayena)**.
- In **1677,** he forged an **anti-Mughal, anti-Bijapur alliance** with **Golconda** (richest of Deccani states) and ravaged **Mughal territory** in Berar, Khandesh and Baglan and **Bijapur territory** in Kanara. He secured **Panhala fort** and Satara.
- He conquered areas of **Senji** and **Vellore** allowing his half-brother, **Venkoji (or Ekoji)**, to govern **Thanjavur,** with Senji serving as a secondary line of defense for his successors.
- He replaced **Persian** with **Marathi** as the court language and ordered the compilation of a Sanskrit dictionary, the **Raj-Vyavahar Kosh.**

Last Days of Shivaji

Shivaji died in 1680, having successfully established and defended a kingdom against the superior Bijapur and Mughal forces.

Marathas after Shivaji

- **Shambhaji** succeeded Shivaji. Around the same time, **rebel Prince Akbar**, dissenting against Aurangzeb's anti-Hindu policies, sought refuge in the Maratha court and declared himself Emperor in **1681**. Further, Shambhaji's attacks on Mughal territories in **Khandesh**, prompted Aurangzeb to lead a massive expedition to the Deccan.
- Aurangzeb made a deal with the Mewar Rajputs and invaded the Deccan, annexing **Bijapur** (**1686**) and **Golkonda** (**1687**).
- Mughals captured and killed Sambhaji in 1689.
- Post **Shambhaji's** execution, the Marathas, under their new ruler **Rajaram**, demonstrated resilience against Aurangzeb.
  - Despite being under siege, Rajaram escaped to **Jinji/Senji** and started **guerrilla warfare** against the Mughal forces and expanded Maratha's influence. However, the Mughals captured Shambhaji's son **Sahu**.
- The Maratha movement now became more **decentralised**, with individual commanders raising their own armies and attacking Mughal forces at will. They also started collecting **chauth** in **Gujarat** and **Deccan** areas.
- The conflict escalated with Aurangzeb's attacks on Marathas. After **Rajaram died** in **1700**, his wife **Tara Bai** declared her son **Shivaji II** as king and herself as the regent.
- Taking advantage of the political turmoil in the region, the European trading companies were strengthening their footholds in India.

Shahu's Reign(1707-1749 AD) and Peshwa's Rise

- **Shahu**, Sambhaji's son (released after Aurangzeb's death), claimed the **Maratha throne**. This was objected to by Tara Bai, resulting in a civil war. With support from **Balaji Viswanath**, **Shahu** emerged victorious and assumed the throne in **1708**.
- In gratitude, Shahu appointed **Balaji** as the **Peshwa** in **1713**, who eventually became the **de facto ruler**, **governing from Poona** while Shahu resided in Satara**.**

Rivalry and Succession

- **Tara Bai** established a **parallel government** in **Kolhapur**. However, in **1714**, she and her son were imprisoned by **Raja Bai** (the second wife of Rajaram) and her son, **Sambhaji II** to ascend the **Kolhapur's throne** and acknowledge Shahu's overlordship.
- **Rajaram II/Ramraja (1749 – 1777 AD):** He was the **adopted son** of **Shahu**. Tarabai presented him as the grandson of Rajaram to take control of the state. However, Peshwa Baji Rao retained him as the titular Chhatrapati. The power of the **Chhatrapati** was almost completely **overshadowed** by that of the **Peshwa**.

- **Shahu II**, the **adopted son** of **Rama Raja**, ruled till his death in **1808** as a **non-entity**. His successor, **Pratap Singh,** was **deposed** by the **Britishers** in **1839** on the charges of plotting against the British Government.
- Pratap Singh died as a prisoner in 1847. His younger brother, **Shaji Appa Saheb (Shaji II)**, was made king by the British in 1839. **Shahji II** died in 1848 without a successor.

MARATHA ADMINISTRATION

Central Government

Shivaji had an advisory council called '**Ashta Pradhan Mandal'** with eight ministers**.**

Mukhya Pradhan (Peshwa)	He was the prime minister and looked after the general welfare and interests of the State and officiated for the king in his absence.
Amatya/Mazumdar	Finance minister
Walkia-Nawis (Mantri)	Maintained the records of the king's activities and the proceedings in the court.
Summant (Dabir or foreign secretary)	Advised on war, peace, and diplomacy.
Sachiv (Shuru Nawis)	Managed correspondence with the king and checked accounts of Parganas.
Pandit Rao (Danadhyaksha)	Oversaw religion, ceremonies, and morality.
Nyayadhish	The chief justice responsible for civil and military justice.
Sari Naubat (Senapati)	The commander-in-chief.

Other Points Related to their Functioning

- Every minister led military expeditions and commanded armies except **Nyayadhish** and **Pandit Rao**.
- Every royal decree needed approval and seals from the **King** and the **Peshwa** and endorsements from four other key ministers. There were eighteen administrative departments each overseen by different ministers.
- Shivaji controlled the influential **Maratha landed** families **(Deshmukhs)** by expanding the crown land.
- **Adnyapatra** was a royal edict on the **principles of Maratha policy** written in **Modi script** by **Ramchandra Pant Amatya.** It was supposed to be the formal documentation of Shivaji's ideals, principles, and policies of state administration.

'Modi' was a script used to write Marathi.

Provincial Government

- Shivaji divided the kingdom **(Swaraj)** into **Mauzas, Tarafs and Prants**.
  - **Provinces** were known as **prants** under subedar, karkun (or mukhya desbadhikari).
  - **Tarfs** were headed by a havaldar, karkunoa paripatyagar.
  - **Mauza** was the smallest unit.
- Over a number of prants there was the **sarsubedar** to control and supervise the work of subedars.
- Each subedar had eight scbordinate officers: diwan, mazumdar, fadnis, sabnis, karkhanis, chitnis, jamadar and potnis.
- The police officer in **rural** area was called **Faujdar** and in **urban** area was called **Kotwal**.

The tradition of granting jagirs was replaced with **cash payments** to all officers. Officials who were assigned the revenues of a place had control only over the income, not the people. None of the offices were **hereditary**.

Revenue Administration

- The revenue system was established on **Malik Amber's Kathi system** where the land was calculated by Rod or **Kathi**.
- Shivaji's revenue system was **compassionate to farmers**, with lands diligently assessed and a fixed state demand of initially **30%**, later raised to **40%**, of the gross produce.
  - During famines, the government provided repayable aid and advanced loans to peasants for agricultural necessities.
- **Chauth and Sardeshmukhi**:
  - Shivaji collected **Chauth** (**one-fourth** of revenue of the district conquered) and **Sardeshmukhi** (**additional 10%** by virtue of his position as

Sardeshmukh) from **adjoining territories** of his empire, conquered territories and **Mughal/ Bijapur** lands.

Military Organisation

The Marathas were experts in **guerrilla warfare**, along with the use of an **innovative weapon**, the **Bagh naka**, meaning tiger claw.

Infantry

- The **infantry** was highly mobile and light, with **Mavli** (foot soldiers) playing an important role.
- At the time of exigencies, peasants also functioned as part time soldiers.
- The smallest unit with **nine soldiers** was headed by a **Naik** (corporal). Each unit with **25 horsemen** was placed under one **Havildar** (equivalent to the rank of a sergeant). Five havildars were placed under one **Jamaladar** and ten Jamaladars under one **Hazari**.
- The **cavalry** was divided into two **classes**:
  - **Bargirs** (soldiers whose horses were given by the state) and
  - **Shiledars** (mercenary horsemen who had to find their own horses).

Judicial System

- Justice system was rudimentary with **no formal courts** and Panchayats operating in villages.
- Ordeals and smritis guided legal proceedings.
- **Nyayadhish** heard appeals in both civil and criminal cases.
- **Hazir Majlim** served as the final court of appeal.

RULE OF THE PESHWAS (1713-1818 AD)

Peshwa (Persian origin), meaning "Foremost" or the "First Minister", introduced in Deccan by the Muslim rulers.

Balaji Viswanath (1713–1720 AD)

He helped Maratha emperor **Shahu** stabilise the kingdom after the civil war; Convinced **Kanhoji Angre** to support **Shahu against Europeans**; Revived jagir grants and made Peshwa's office **hereditary.** He was succeeded by his son **Baji Rao I.**

Baji Rao I (1720–1740 AD)

He was the **most famous** of all **nine Peshwas** and also known as "**Thorale**", meaning 'Elder' Baji Rao. He was the **greatest exponent** of **guerrilla tactics** after Shivaji.

- He **shifted** the **administrative capital** from **Satara** to **Pune** in **1728 AD.**
- He **initiated** the system of **confederacy** among the Maratha chiefs.

Confederacy: Under this system, each **Maratha chief** was assigned a territory that could be **administered autonomously.**

Confederacy	Area
GAEKWADS	Baroda
BHONSLES	Nagpur
HOLKARS	Indore
SCINDIAS	Gwalior
PESHWAS	Poona

Expeditions/Conquests

- Expanded the Maratha rule from **Cuttack** (Krishna) **to Attock.**
- Popularised the idea of **Hindu-padpadshahi** (Hindu Empire) to secure the support of Hindu chiefs against the Mughals.
- Defeated **Nizam** of Hyderabad, the **Rajput** Governor of **Malwa**, and the **Governor of Gujarat**.
- In 1722 AD, he captured **Salsette and Bassein** from the **Portuguese**. He fostered **friendly ties with the English** to facilitate free trade in the Deccan.

Balaji Baji Rao (1740–1761)

Introduction

Succeeded his father, Baji Rao I as Peshwa. He was also known as **Nana Sahib**.

During his reign, Maratha king **Shahu died** in **1749 AD** and his nominated successor, **Ramraja**, was imprisoned by the Peshwa at Satara. Thus, the supreme power of the Maratha confederacy passed into the hands of Peshwa (by the **Sangola Agreement** of **1750 AD)**.

- He defeated the Nawab of Bengal, **Alivardi Khan,** and entered into an **agreement** with the **Mughal Emperor** in **1752 AD**.
  - Assured the Mughal Emperor for protection from **internal** and **external enemies** in lieu of **Chauth** of the **north-west provinces** and the **total revenue** of **Agra** and **Ajmer.**
  - Honouring this agreement, Marathas fought the **Third Battle of Panipat** (**1761 AD**) when Ahmad Shah Abdali invaded India.

Battle of Udgir (1760)

- After **Nizam Asaf Jah died** in **1748**, a war of succession erupted.
- Peshwa supported Nizam's eldest son and sent an army, led by **Sadasiva Rao**, winning the **Battle of Udgir** in **1760**, capturing Bijapur, Aurangabad, Daulatabad, Ahmednagar, and Burhanpur.

THIRD BATTLE OF PANIPAT (1761)

Background

- **Ahmad Shah Abdali** consolidated his position through military expeditions against the Mughals, taking control of Multan, Punjab and Delhi by 1757.
- An expedition under **Malhar Rao Holkar** and **Raghunatha Rao** removed the **agent** of **Abdali at Delhi** and captured **Sirhind and Lahore** in **1758.**

Course of War

- To counter the challenges, Abdali returned to India in October 1759 and recovered the **Punjab.**
- The Peshwa sent **Dattaji Scindia** to the Punjab but was defeated in the battle **(1760)**. Malhar Rao Holkar was also defeated at **Sikandara.**
- Then the **Peshwa** recruited a vast army under the command of **Sadasiva Rao.** They were joined by the Holkar, Scindia and Gaikwar.
- **Abdali** responded by allying with **Najib-ud-Daulah** of **Rohilkhand** and **Shuja-ud-Daulah** of **Oudh**.
- The Marathas failed to **find allies** among the northern powers, as they had already alienated the **Nawab of Oudh**, the **Sikh**, **Jat** chiefs, and the **Rajputs**.

Effects of the Battle of Panipat:

- Severe defeat of the Marathas, with casualties including **Viswas Rao, Sadasiva Rao,** and ultimately death of Peshwa in 1761.
- Post-battle, **Holkar's** and **Scindia's** contingents retreated.
- Despite initial setbacks, the Marathas regained northern power within a decade, supporting Mughal Emperor Shah Alam.

Peshwa after Balaji Baji Rao(1761-1772)

- **Madhav Rao** was successor and son of Balaji Baji Rao, under Raghunath Rao's regency in 1761. He secured victories against the **Nizam (1763) and Haider Ali (1765-1767 and 1772)**.
  - He reinstated control in northern India, subduing various regional powers, like Rohillas (Pathans), Rajput states and Jat chiefs and repositioned Emperor **Shah Alam II** at **Delhi** from **Allahabad (under British-protection) in 1771**.
  - His unexpected demise in **1772** marked the end of his influential reign.
- Following several successions, **Baji Rao II**, the son of **Raghunath Rao**, became the **last Peshwa** after Madhav Rao II's death.

THE ANGLO-MARATHA WARS

First Anglo-Maratha War (1775-1782)

- Dispute over successions to the Peshwaship after the death of **Narayan Rao**; Raghunath Rao, or **Raghoba,** wanted to get the Peshwaship, which was opposed by **Nana Fadnavis of Pune**.
  - Having failed in his bid to capture power, Raghoba appealed to the **Britishers** for support. The Company administration in Bombay supported Ragunath Rao in return for getting Salsette and Bassein
- With pro-British shifts by **Mahadaji Scindia** (Maratha Statesman) and the **Bhonsle of Nagpur**, the Marathas conceded **Thane** and **Salsette** to the British. The **1782 Treaty of Salbai** pensioned off Raghunath Rao, ensuing peace between the Company and the Marathas for approximately two decades.

Second Anglo-Maratha War (1803-1806)

- Following **Nana Fadnavis'** death, **Peshwa Baji Rao II** was dethroned amid power struggles. He allied with the British and the Governor General **Wellesley** imposed the **Subsidiary Alliance.**
- This resulted in the **Treaty of Bassein** in **1802** , which was deemed humiliating by the Maratha States, igniting the **Second Anglo-Maratha War.**
- Despite fierce resistance, the Marathas were defeated, conceding territories like **Doab, Ahmadnagar, Broach,** and all of the hilly region and accepting the British terms of the Subsidiary Alliance.

Third Anglo-Maratha War (1817-1819)

- The escape of the imprisoned **Trimbakji**, aided by Peshwa, and conspiracies within the Maratha confederacy increased tensions between Britishers and the Peshwa.
- In **1817**, the British coerced Peshwa into a new treaty, leading him to **relinquish** his **headship** and **cede territories** of **Konkan** to the **British** and recognise the independence of the **Gaikwad,** escalating his animosity.
- Amidst British engagements with the **Pindaris**, the Peshwa retaliated, attacking the **British Residency in Poona**. Subsequent defeats in battles at **Ashta**, **Kirkee**, and **Korgaon** led Baji Rao II to eventually surrender to **Elphinstone in 1818**.

Outcome of the Third Anglo-Maratha War

- The **British abolished the Peshwai** and annexed the Peshwa's territories, **dissolving** the **Maratha Confederacy** (comprising Bhonsle, Holkar and Scindia) established by **Baji Rao I**. However, the jagirs of the fief holders were reinstated.
- **Baji Rao II** remained a captive until his death in **1851**, receiving an annual pension.
- **Pratap Singh**, a descendent of **Shivaji**, was established as the ruler of a truncated kingdom around Satara, and **Mountstuart Elphinstone**, the former Resident at Poona, assumed the role of Governor of Bombay.

MARATHA ADMINISTRATION UNDER PESHWAS (1714-1818 AD)

Peshwa's Rise to Prominence

- Peshwa was one of Shivaji's **Ashta Pradhan** (council of ministers). The office was initially not hereditary but gained prominence as the king's power declined.
- **Balaji Vishwanath** (1713-1720) established the Peshwa's office as supreme and hereditary. He took control of the administration and streamlined it after Shambhaji.

The Central Secretariat

- The centre of the Maratha administration was the Peshwa **Secretariat at Poona,** which involved:
- Managing **revenues, expenditures,** and the accounts submitted by the **village** and **district** officials.
- Daily record of all revenues, grants, and payments received from foreign territories.
- Handling the salaries of all the **public servants** and the budgets under civil, military, and religious heads.

Provinces

- Large provinces had **Sar-Subahdars** as provincial governors. Divisions in the provinces were called **Subahs** and **Pranths.**
- **Mamlatdar and Kamavistar** were Peshwa's representatives in the **districts** and were responsible for every branch of district administration.
- **Deshmukh** and **Deshpandes,** who were district officers **in charge of accounts** observed the activities of Mamlatdars and Kamavistars. It was a system of checks and balances.
- At the Pargana level, Deshpande used to keep accounts and records, whereas Deshmukh had legal and policing authority.
- In order to prevent the misappropriation of public money, the Maratha government collected a heavy sum **(Rasad)** from the **Mamlatdars** and other officials. It was collected on their **first appointment** to a **district**.

Revenue Sources

- **Land revenue** was the **primary income** which transitioned from sharing of agricultural produce (**Shivaji's time**) to **tax farming**.
- Assessment of land revenue was based on the kinds of **crops**, facilities for **irrigation**, and **productivity** of the land.

Village Administration

- Village was the basic unit of administration headed by **Patel** and was self-supportive.
- The **Patel** (**not paid by the government** and **hereditary** chief officer) was responsible for **remitting revenue** to the centre, assisted by the accountant and record-keeper, **Kulkarni**.
- Hereditary servants performed communal functions.
- Village artisans provided compulsory labour, or begar.

Urban Administration

- **Kotwal** was the chief officer in towns and cities. He also functioned as the magistrate.
- His functions included the maintenance of peace and order, regulation of prices, settling civil disputes and sending monthly accounts to the government.

Police System

- Watchmen were employed in every village. They were usually from the Mahar caste.
- The residents of the disturbed area had to pay an additional house tax as the government had to send forces from the irregular infantry to control crimes.

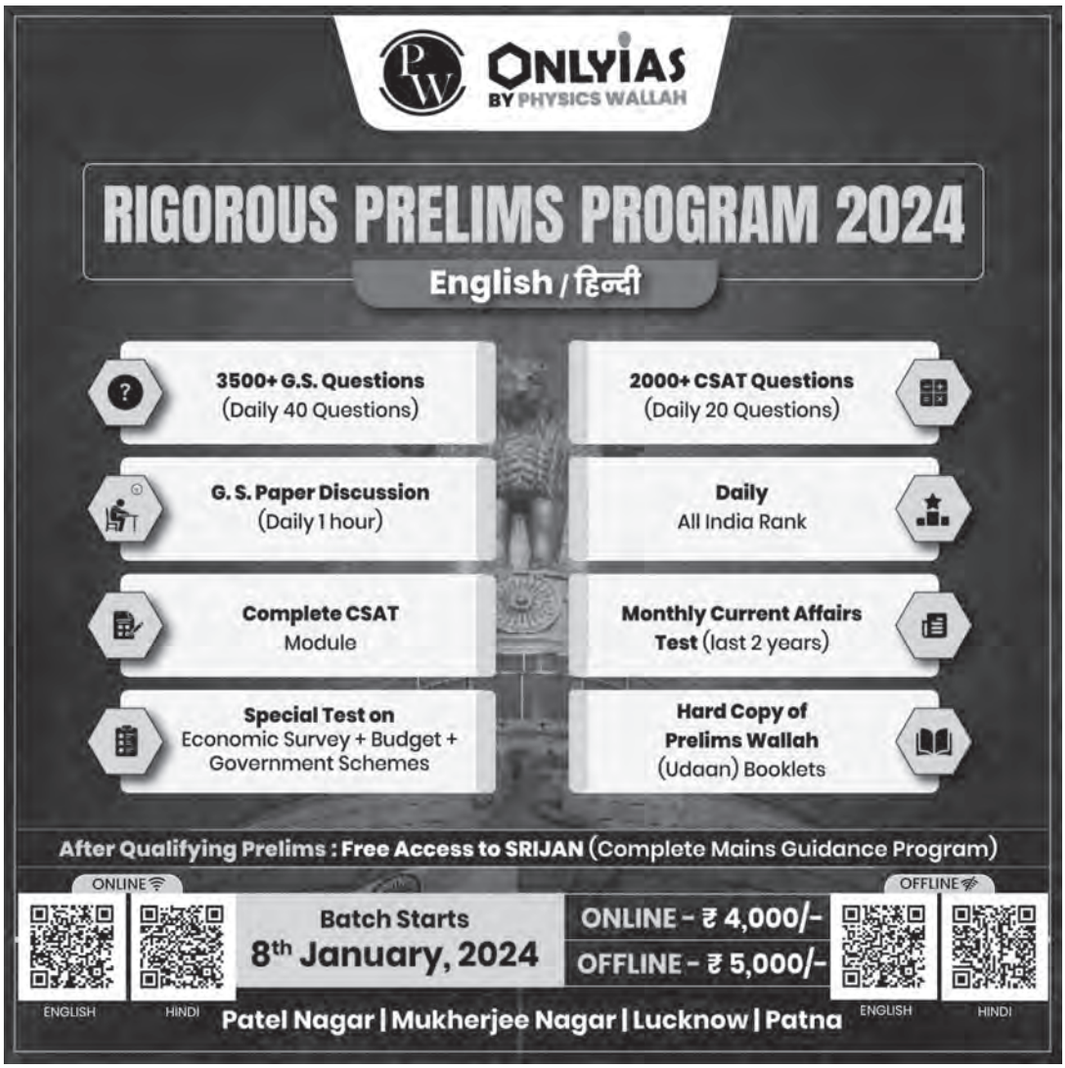
Judicial System

- Rudimentary, lacking codified laws and procedures, and **arbitration** was prioritised.
- Unresolved cases were transferred for decision to a panchayat appointed by the **Patel** in the **village** and by the **leading merchants** in **towns. Appeals** were made to the **Mamlatdar.**
- A **hierarchy** existed in **criminal cases**, with **Raja Chhatrapati** at the apex level, followed by **Peshwa**, **Sar-Subahdar**, **Mamlatdar** and Patel, with the common use of flogging and torture for confessions.

Military Structure

- **Army:** Closely resembled the **system of the Mughals**. They recruited soldiers from across India, contrasting with **Shivaji's** local Maratha enlistment. The army, a mix of various groups included Arabs and Sikhs, had mercenaries from rival chieftains, causing **internal disputes** and affecting **Maratha unity**.
- **Cavalry:** It was the main strength of the Maratha army. Each Jamindar was obligated to bring a stipulated number of horsemen every year. These horsemen were classified into **three categories**, based on the quality of their horses.
- **Infantry and Artillery:** Infantry comprised of Arabs, Rohillas, Sikhs, and Sindhis and were paid higher salaries than the Maratha soldiers. **Artillery** was manned by **Portuguese, Indian Christians**, and later **English.**
- **Navy:** They guarded Maratha ports, combated piracy and collected customs duties. **Balaji Vishwanath** established naval bases at **Konkan, Khanderi, and Vijayadurg** .

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6 Bhakti and Sufi Traditions

BHAKTI MOVEMENT

The term Bhakti is derived from the Sanskrit root word "**Bhaj,**" which means to serve, and it is defined as "devotion" or passionate love for the Divine. It is centred on the relationship between the devotee and a personal god. The Bhakti Movement brought about revolutionary changes in moral, social, and political perspectives in the Indian subcontinent between the 8th and 18th century AD.

Sources to Study the Bhakti Movement

- **Literature, devotional songs, and poetry** in regional languages served as primary sources.
  - Jayadeva's **"Gita Govinda"** depicts the love between Krishna and Radha;
  - **Alvars'** Tamil hymns etc.
- **Hagiographies:** Biographical accounts of Bhakti saints written by their followers or sect members provide insights into their lives and teachings.
  - **"Janam-Sakhi"** is based on the life of Guru Nanak.
- Oral transmission, oral narratives, and storytelling.
  - **Burra Katha**- a Telugu storytelling art form of Andhra Pradesh

Causes for the Birth of Bhakti Movement

- Superstitious beliefs among Hindus make the religion complex in nature.
- The caste system, untouchability, and inequality in society caused dissension among different sections of the people. Further, Islam preached the unity of God and brotherhood of man, which attracted the oppressed common masses.
- Religious leaders in different parts of India preached pure devotion called Bhakti to remove evils like fanaticism, bigotry, and religious intolerance.

Main Features of the Bhakti Movement

- Preached monotheism (oneness of God).
- Salvation (freedom from the cycle of death and birth) could be attained only by deep devotion and faith in God.
- Criticised Idol worship and condemned ritualism, pilgrimages, and fasts.
- Guru could act as a guide and preceptor.
- Advocated the principles of universal brotherhood and denounced the caste system.
- Superstitious practices are to be given up.
- Didn't consider any language sacred and composed poems in the language of the common masses.

Bhakti tradition has been **classified into two main categories**:

- **Saguna Bhakti (with form or attributes)**: The emphasis is on worshipping human-like figures of deities and their avatars. **Eg**: Worship of lord Krishna by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.
- **Nirguna Bhakti (without form or attributes):** Worship of an abstract form (**nirankar**) of God.
  Eg: God in Sikhism is formless.

Early Proponents

- Early bhakti movements around the sixth century were led by **two groups**:
  - **Alvars** (devotees of **Vishnu**): **Nammalwar, Tirumangai Alwar, Andal, and Perialwar** were famous Alvar saints.
  - **Nayanars** (devotees of **Shiva**): **Appar, Sundarar, Thirugnana Sambandar,** and **Manickavachakar** were famous Nayanar saints.
- They carried their message of love and devotion to various parts of South India through the medium of the local language preaching among the common masses. It helped some of the followers of the Vedic faith revive the old Vedic religion.
- They sang Tamil hymns while identifying sacred sites, which later developed into major temples and pilgrimage centres. Their hymns were integrated into temple rituals, and worship of their idols became a temple tradition.
  - Eg: **Sri Ramanathaswamy Temple** (Rameshwaram; dedicated to Lord Shiva)

Attitude towards Caste

- **Alvars** and **Nayanars** challenged the caste system and **Brahmanical dominance** with support from diverse social groups of artisans, farmers, and marginalised "**untouchable**" castes.

Literature

Alvars and **Nayanars** asserted the significance of their traditions **equal to that of the Vedas**.

- **Alvars**
  - **Nalayira Divyaprabandham**, a "**four thousand sacred collection**" of compositions by the **12 Alvars**, was compiled in the 10th century by **Nathamuni** and is often referred to as the **Tamil Veda**.
  - The collection of devotional songs of **Andal** is called **Thiruppavai**. Andal's Tamil works include **Thiruppavai** and **Nachiar Tirumozhi.**
- **Nayanars:** The Saiva literature was canonized as the **Panniru Tirumurai** (12 volumes).
  - **Tevaram/Thevaram** is a compilation of devotional poetry by Tamil poets **Appar**, **Sambandar**, and **Sundarar** which forms the initial seven volumes of **Saiva Tirumurai**. The Eighth Thirumurai consists of the hymns of Manickavasakar.
  - **Manickvachakar's** songs are known as **Tiruvachakam**.
  - **Periyapuranam**, written by **Sekhizhar**, tells us the life stories of the Nayanars. It is the twelfth Thirumurai of the Saiva canon.

Women Devotees

Women were at the **bottom of the traditional hierarchy of society**. Only through demonstrations of their **utter devotion to the Divine** and **stubborn insistence on their spiritual equality** with their contemporaries were these women reluctantly acknowledged and accepted within their ranks. Many of them **rejected asceticism** as the crucial means towards liberation.

Some of the noted women devotees are:

- **Akkamahadevi**, also known as Akka or Mahadevi, was a devotee of Shiva from the southern region of Karnataka, in the 12th century C.E.
- **Karaikkal Ammaiyar**, a devotee of **Shiva**, pursued extreme asceticism to achieve her spiritual goals.
- **Andal**, a woman Alvar, composed verses expressing her love for Vishnu.

These women chose a path of renunciation but didn't join formal religious orders or become nuns. Their existence and writings challenged patriarchal norms in society.

Chola's Relations with the Bhakti Tradition

- Bhakti hymns often opposed Buddhism and Jainism in order to gain royal patronage.
- **Chola rulers** patronised Brahmanical and Bhakti traditions, funding land and constructing temples for Vishnu and Shiva, echoing the visions of these saints to gain their support and showcase power. **Eg**: Shiva temples at **Chidambaram, Thanjavur, and Gangaikondacholapuram.**
- Chola rulers promoted the singing of **Tamil Shaiva hymns (Nayanar)** in temples.
- A 945 A.D inscription indicates that Chola ruler Parantaka I placed metal statues of Appar, Sambandar, and Sundarar in a Shiva temple, which were paraded during their festivals.

Mixing of Little and Great Traditions

- Brahmanas began to incorporate and adapt the beliefs and practices of various social categories, leading to the mixing of **little** and **great** traditions. (**Great tradition**s are practices from dominant social categories like priests and rulers, whereas **Little traditions** are local practices)
  - An illustrative **example** of this integration is observed in Puri, Orissa, where the principal deity came to be known as **Jagannatha** and was recognized as a form of **Vishnu** by the **12th century,** highlighting the fusion of local and Puranic traditions.

VEERASHAIVA/LINGAYAT Tradition

- **Founder**: **Basavanna,** a minister for **Kalachuri** ruler **Bijjala II** (In the mid-12th century).
- **Practices**:
  - **Worship Shiva as a linga** and men usually wear a small linga in a silver case on a loop strung over the **left shoulder.**
  - Those who are revered include the **Jangama (wandering monks)**.
  - **Bury their dead**, believing they'll unite with Shiva after death and won't reincarnate. They do not practise funerary rites such as cremation, prescribed in the Dharmashastras.
  - **Opposed the caste** system's traditional customs and questioned the theory of rebirth. **[UPSC 2016]**
  - Supported practices like widow remarriage and post-puberty marriage which were disapproved in the Dharmashastras.
- **Essential features:**
  - They promoted the exclusive worship of Lord Shiva, **rejecting idolatry** and the veneration of multiple deities.
  - They **discouraged temple visits**, especially those with installed Lingas, and **participation in sacrificial rites.** According to them, pilgrimages to holy places did not ensure true spiritual purity. Donation to temples was seen as fostering inequality.
  - Members refrained from adhering to the **"Pancha Sutakas"**(birth, death, menstruation, spittle, and caste contact), five Pollutions integral to **Brahmanical Hinduism's beliefs** and practices.

- **Shasthala, Ashtavaranas, and Panchacharas-**
  - **Shatsthala** outlined six stages to unite with Lord Shiva.
  - **Astavarana** shielded individuals from spiritual obstacles.
  - **Panchachara** consisted of five religious postures essential for Veerashaivites to safeguard their faith.
- **Kayaka-** Under this**,** they emphasized **equality in all work** and valued dedication. They believed salvation comes through devotion to one's occupation.

- The Lingayat tradition is known through **'Vachanas' (Verses of a devotional nature)** in **Kannada**, composed by both male and female followers.

Tantrism

- Both **Shaivism** and **Buddhism** were influenced by these ideas. These beliefs would come to be classified as Hindu over the next millennium.

  Two basic principles form the basis of all Tantism:

  1. It doesn't accept the authority of the Vedas.
  2. Fertility rites form a major part of Tantrism.
- Earliest indirect textual reference of Tantrism:
  - **Kadambari** and **Harshcharita** by Banabhatt
  - **Mattavilasa** by Mahendravarman
  - **Dashkumarcharita** by Dandin
- **Epigraphical evidence:** Inscription of Vishvavarman (Gangadhar, Rajasthan)(423AD)
- **Tantric practices:**
  - The female principle (Prakriti) is of greater importance than the male one (Purusha).
  - They disregarded caste, patriarchy, and class distinctions during rituals.
  - It doesn't believe in idol worship, as the body is considered a microcosm of the universe.

Religious Ferment in North India

- **Vishnu** and **Shiva** were venerated in temples supported by rulers in North India, but compositions akin to Alvar and Nayanar did not appear until the 14th century.
- **Nathpanthis, Siddhacharas and Yogis** were religious groups that **criticised orthodox rituals** and social order, using logical arguments in vernacular language. They advocated intense training of the mind and body through practices like yogasanas, breathing exercises and meditation as the path for salvation.
- The **arrival of the Turks** and the establishment of the **Delhi Sultanate** in the **13th century** weakened Rajput states and their associated Brahmanas and shifted the region's cultural and religious dynamics.

PROPONENTS OF BHAKTI MOVEMENT

Adi Shankaracharya (788-820 AD)

- He was born in Kaladi, kerala. Adi Sankara's arrival marked the beginning of philosophical Bhakti discourse in Sanskrit.
- He propounded the theory of Advaita Vedanta(Non-Dualism). Sankara's Advaita, or non-dualism, had its roots in Vedanta or Upanishadic philosophy.
- The two main thrusts of the Sankara school were the organisation of monasteries and the preservation of Sanskrit scriptures. His attempts to root out Buddhism and to establish smarta (traditionalist) mathas resulted in the establishment of monasteries in different places viz., Sringeri, Dvaraka, Badrinath, and Puri, which were headed by Brahmin pontiffs.
- Sankara looked upon Saiva and Vaishnava worship as two equally important aspects of the Vedic religion.
- A 12-foot statue of Shankaracharya was established in Kedarnath.

Ramanuja (1017-1137 AD)

- A **southern reformer** who made a pilgrimage to some of the holy places in **Northern India.**
- He challenged the monist ideology of Adi Sankara and propounded Vishistadvaita (Qualified Monoism).
- Ramanuja took an interest in propagating the doctrine of Bhakti to social groups outside the varnashrama system. He influenced temple authorities to permit them to enter the temple at least once a year. He firmly believed that intense devotion to Vishnu was the best means to attain salvation.**[UPSC 2022]**
- His teachings were based on the **Upanishads** and **Bhagwad Gita** and taught in a **common language.**
- He was influenced by the teachings of the Srirangam school of thought. Ramanujar joined it and was later declared the head of a monastery in Srirangam.
- His disciple, **Ramanand**, later propagated his message in Northern India.
- A century after his death, there was a schism which developed into two separate schools under Vedanta Desikar and Manavala Mamuni.
- Recently, the **Statue of Equality** was constructed in Hyderabad to commemorate the 1000-year anniversary of Ramanujacharya.

Namdeva (1270-1350 AD)

- He came from a family of tailors. He popularised the Bhakti Movement in **Maharashtra** and was closely associated with the **Varkari** Sect.
- He was converted to the path of bhakti under the influence of Saint **Janadeva.**

Varkari sect

Devotion to **Lord Vitthala** gave rise to the Varkari sect, which laid emphasis on an annual pilgrimage to Pandharpur (Maharashtra). The Vaishnava poet-saints of Maharashtra, such as **Jnaneshwar, Namadeva, Eknath and Tukaram were devotees of lord Vitthala.**

- He wrote many **abhangs** (songs composed and sung in the glory of God) in Marathi and Hindi, and later, some of his verses were added to **Guru Granth Sahib.**
- Love god with all your heart to lead a pious life surrendering everything to him with steadfast devotion is the essence of his message.

Jnaneshwar (1275-1296 AD)

- Saint of **Maharashtra**, revered **Vishnu as Vithoba or Krishna.**
- He translated the **Bhagavad Gita** from Sanskrit to Marathi**, called Jnaneshwari.**

Ramananda (1400-1470 AD)

- He was a follower of **Ramanuja** and preached **Vaishnavism** in Hindi. He was the first to preach his doctrine of devotion in Hindi, the vernacular language.
- A devoted **worshipper of Rama**, educated in Benaras**.** By establishing his own sect based on the philosophy of love and devotion to Rama and Sita, Ramananda introduced radical changes in Vaishnavism. **He substituted the worship of Rama in place of Vishnu**.
- He advocated **equality before God** and **rejected the caste system,** particularly the supremacy of Brahmins.
- He welcomed **followers from all castes and backgrounds** and had twelve chief disciples, which included **Saint Kabir, Ravidas** and a woman named **Padmavathi.**
- He famously used to say **"Let no man ask a man's sect or caste"**.

Kabir (1398-1448 AD)

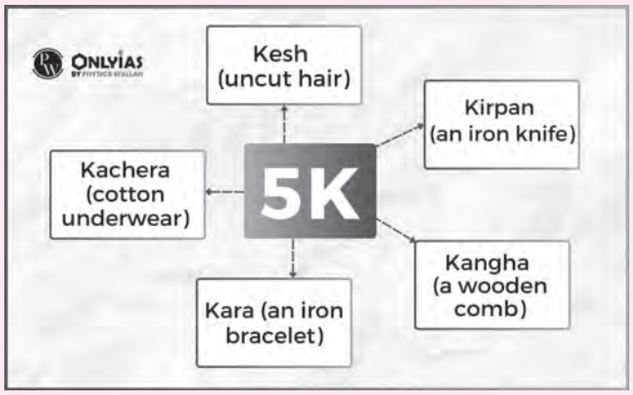
- He was probably a **weaver,** born in **Varanasi**.
- Learned Vedanta philosophy from **Swami Ramananda.**
- According to **Tazkirah-i-Auliya-i-Hind** (Lives of Muslim Saints), he was a disciple of the Muslim Sufi, **Shaikh Taqi.[UPSC 2019]**
- His poems express a wide range of ideas, blending **Sufi** and **Hindu** ideas like '**zikr'** and '**Nam-simaran'** and taught that Allah and Eswar, Ram, and Rahim are one and the same. He had no faith in idol worship polytheism and denounced the caste system. He equally condemned Muslim formalism.
- Kabir's **verses exist in three distinct** traditions:
  - **Kabir's Bijak** is preserved by the **Kabirpanth** (the path or sect of Kabir)**. [UPSC 2014]**
  - **Kabir Granthavali** by Dadupanth in Rajasthan.
  - **Adi Granth Sahib**.
- His poems often invert everyday meanings **("Ulatbansi"** or **upside-down sayings)** to hint at the complexity of expressing the Ultimate Reality.

Baba Guru Nanak (1469-1538 AD)

- Born in 1469, **Nankana Sahib** (near the **Ravi** river).
- Advocated **Nirguna bhakti**, believing in a formless, genderless Absolute called "**rab**."
- He **dismissed** rituals, sacrifices, and the scriptures of both **Hindus** and **Muslims** and emphasised connecting to the Divine by repeating the Divine Name through **"shabad"** hymns.
- He established a community of followers and set guidelines for collective worship, or **"sangat,"** centred on collective recitation. He founded the Sikh religion during the period of **Sikander Lodi** (1489-1517) and when **Babur** was strengthening the Mughal dynasty. **[UPSC 2013]**
- The teachings of Guru Nanak is the Adi Granth.

Other Sikh Gurus:

- The second Sikh Guru, **Guru Angad** started the **'Gurumukhi'** script.
- The fifth Guru, **Guru Arjan**, **compiled his hymns**, including those of his successors and poets like **Baba Farid**, **Ravidas**, and **Kabir** in the **Adi Granth Sahib**.
- **The tenth (last) Guru**, **Guru Gobind Singh**, expanded it by including compositions from the ninth guru, **Guru Tegh Bahadur**, known as the **Guru Granth Sahib (written in Gurumukhi script)**. After Guru Gobind Singh the Granth Sahib was considered the guru.
- The Guru Granth Sahib also incorporates the writings of many Bhakti poets and Sufi saints such as **Ramananda, Namadeva, Kabir** and **Sheikh Farid**.
- Guru Gobind Singh defined Sikhism's **Five symbols (5 K'S)**



Vallabhacharya (1479-1531 AD)

- Vallabhacharya, the **founder of Pushtimarg** (the path of grace), emphasised devotion to the **child Krishna** through **Vatsalya Bhakti.**
- He travelled across India, establishing **eighty-four Pushtimarg seats** during his pilgrimages.
- He propounded the theory of **Shuddadvaita (pure non-dualism)**.
- Advocated **householdership** for Vaishnava devotees.

Chaitanya (1485-1533 AD)

- Fondly called **'Mahaprabhu,'** his songs remain popular in **Bengal**. A Bengali saint devoted to **Krishna**.
- He started a **revivalist movement** as he wanted to exalt the superiority of Krishna over all other deities. His movement became popular in **Bengal and Orissa**.
- Considered an incarnation of **Vishnu** by his followers. He championed love and tolerance and opposed caste inequalities.
- He popularised **'Sankirtan'** (public God-praising songs) in Bengal.

Shankaradeva (1499-1569 AD)

- He championed **Vaishnavism in Assam** (Especially in the **Kamarupa** region) through his **Bhagavati dharma** teachings, drawing from the Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavata Purana.
- He emphasised surrendering to Vishnu and endorsed **'naam kirtan'** - reciting the lord's names in devout congregations (**sat sanga**).
- He advocated for **'satra'** (monasteries) and **'naam ghar'** (prayer halls) for spiritual growth.
- **"Kirtana-ghosha"(written in Brajavali language)** is a notable poetical composition of Shankardeva.

Tulsi Das (1532-1623 AD)

- He popularised the **Rama cult** through his **Hindi** rendition of Rama's story.
- His notable works include **Janaki Mangal**, **Parvathi Mangal**, **Ramcharitmanas**, **Vinay Patrika**, **Dohavali, Gitavali,**
- He was a contemporary of Akbar and Jahangir.

Tukaram (1608-1649 AD)

- He penned **Abhangas** in **Marathi**, devotional songs praising **Lord Vithoba** of **Pandarpur.**
- He was a contemporary of **Chhatrapati Shivaji, Jahangir, Shahjahan** and saints like **Eknatha** and **Ramdas**.
- Believed in a **formless god** and rejected Vedic sacrifices, pilgrimages, and idol worship.
- He promoted equality and brotherhood and tried to foster Hindu-Muslim Unity. This theme is covered in a few of his verses.

Guru Ramdas (1608-1681 AD)

- He was a renowned teacher and **spiritual guide** to **Chhatrapati Shivaji.**
- He stressed the **equality of all** men before God.
- Not just a **religious preacher** but also a **visionary nation-builder.**

Janabai (1258-1350 AD)

- Born in **Maharashtra** in a 'low' caste family, she served as a disciple of **Namadeva.**
- Penned over 300 poems, highlighting the challenges of her low-caste status and the confines of domestic life.

Mirabai (1498-1546 AD)

- Born in **Merta (**Rajasthan)**,** great-granddaughter of **Rana Jodhaji,** she was married to Bhoj Raj, son of Rana Sanga of Mewar. She escaped from the palace and gave up traditional marital roles to live as a wandering saint, composing songs that are characterised by intense expressions of emotion and devoting herself to **Krishna**.
- A prominent female poet in the bhakti tradition, **advocating the** form of **Saguna bhakti**. She wrote **Rag-Govind.**
- Mirabai's guru, **Raidas**, was a leather worker, highlighting her **rejection of caste norms**.
- While she didn't form a sect, her songs remain popular among underprivileged communities in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Sur Das

- Sur Das lived at the court of **Akbar** and was popularly known as the **blind bard of Agra**. Sur Das is believed to have been a **disciple of Vallabacharya.**
- Sur Das preached a religion of love and devotion to a personal God. He wrote inspiring Hindi poems about **Lord Krishna.**
- Krishna's **Baal Lila** constitutes the first great theme of Sur Das's poetry.
- His popular works are **Sur Sagar, Sur Saravali** and **Sahitya Lehari.** His monumental work Sur Sagar is a story of Lord Krishna from the birth to the departure for Mathura.

Bahinabai or Bahina (1628-1700 AD)

- Poet-saint from Maharashtra **wrote abangas**, songs depicting women's daily labours.
- Her poems are autobiographical, detailing her life stages and marital conflicts due to her profound love for **Lord Vithoba**, a form of Krishna.
- While dedicated to her divine love, she respected her marital duties, as reflected in her writings on the responsibilities of women toward their husbands.

- Though from a Brahmin background, she revered the low-caste poet-saint **Tukaram**, prioritising devotion over traditional purity norms.

SUFI MOVEMENT

Introduction

Sufism, known as **"tasawwuf"** in Islamic texts, is the mystical dimension of Islam. The origin of the word is debated. It might derive from "**suf**" (wool), referencing the woollen garments Sufis wore, "**safa**" (purity), or "**suffa**," referencing a platform near the Prophet's mosque where devoted followers gathered to learn faith. Its essence is **seeking deeper, personal communion with God**.

Origin of Sufism in India

- With the expansion of the Muslim empire, the Sufi movement spread all over the Muslim world with a missionary zeal to preach Islam.
- In India, it **started with the advent of trade** when foreign merchants started to settle on the western coast. Later on, with successive Muslim invasions, Sufis gained prominence in India.
- **Shaikh Ali Hujwari** of Data Gunj was the **first reputed Sufi in India**. He paved the path for the future sufis in India through his book, **Kashful-ul-Mehjub.** He emphasised the **basic doctrines** of Sufism, like worship of God, love of God, knowledge of God, purification, and annihilation.

Sources to Study the Sufi Movement

- **Literature:**
  - **Malfuzat**: A collection of conversations of **Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya**, compiled by **Amir Hasan Sijzi Dehlavi.**
  - **Maktubat**: Letters written by Sufi masters addressed to their disciples.
    - **Maktubat-i Imam Rabbani** are the letters of the noted Naqshbandi **Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi**, whose ideology is often contrasted with the liberal and non-sectarian views of Akbar.
  - **Tazkiras(biographies)**: **Siyar-ul-Auliya** of Mir Khwurd Kirmani was the first sufi tazkira written in India. It dealt principally with the Chishti saints. The most famous tazkira is the **Akhbar-ul-Akhyar** of Abdul Haqq Muhaddis Dehlavi (d. 1642). The authors of the tazkiras often sought to establish the precedence of their own orders and glorify their spiritual genealogies.
- **Poetry and Music:** The use of music, particularly in **Sufi gatherings** (**Sama**), has been a source of spiritual inspiration and expression. Eg, **Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti** popularised music recitations called **Sama (Mehboob-i-ilahi).**

Main Principles of Sufism [UPSC 2012]

- Direct communion with **divine reality (Haqiqat)** can be established by traversing the **Sufi path (tariqa)** only under the strict supervision of a **shaikh, pir, or murshid**, who had himself successfully traversed it.
- Disciple (**murid**) progressed through the 'stages' by practising spiritual exercises such as self-mortification, **recollection of God's name** to attain concentration (**Zikr**), and contemplation.
- The Sufis organised an impassioned **musical recital (sama)**. The practice of sama was intended to induce a mystical state of ecstasy.
- The **hospice (Khanqah)** was the centre of the activities of a Sufi order, which was **supported by endowment and charity.** It was the place where the pir imparted spiritual training to his disciples. The popularity of the Khanqah and its capacity to attract disciples depended on the reputation of the 'pir'.
- Sufis emphasise **personal spirituality** over ritualistic practises.
- They sought a **deeper connection with God** through meditation, chanting, and personal interpretations of the Qur'an. They also believe in **Tawakkul (**meaning completely trusting in the plan of God. It symbolized the idea of observing containment).

Orders of Sufism (Silsilah)

There are many major and minor orders. Some of them were founded in India itself. The major orders are as follows.

(1) Chishtiya order.
(2) Qadriya order
(3) Suharwardiya order
(4) Naqsh bandiya order.

The minor orders emerged as the offshoot of one or the other major orders.

Chishtiya Order

The Chishtiya Order was founded in India by **Khwaja Moin-Uddin Chishti,** who migrated to India from Central Asia at the behest of his peer (guide), Khwaja Usman. He came with the army of **Muhammad Ghori** in 1192 and settled at **Ajmer**. He maintained that devotional music was one way of coming close to God.

- They were the most influential Sufi group due to their successful adaptation to local customs and incorporation of Indian devotional traditions.
  - Practices such as bowing before the Shaikh, offering water to visitors, shaving the heads of initiates, and yogic exercises represented attempts to assimilate local traditions.

Life in the Chishti Khanqah

- The **Khanqah** was central to social life. It had rooms and a hall for living and praying, housing the Shaikh's family, attendants, and disciples. During a potential Mongol threat, locals sought refuge in the khanqah.
- Visitors included poets such as **Amir Hasan Sijzi** and **Amir Khusrau** and the court historian **Ziyauddin Barani**.

Chishti Devotion

- **Pilgrimage to Sufi saints' tombs (Ziyarat)** is a common practice for seeking **spiritual grace (Barakat)**. It involves music, dance, and mystical chants by qawwals for divine ecstasy, blending indigenous devotional traditions.
- The **shrine of Khwaja Muinuddin,** "**Gharib Nawaz**," is most revered.
  - Situated on the Delhi-Gujarat trade route, it became popular with travellers.
- Sufis invoke God through '**zikr**' (**Divine Names**) and '**sama**' (**audition**) or mystical music performance, a key aspect for Chishtis, bridging indigenous devotional traditions.

Languages and Communication

- **Chishti Sufis in Delhi** used **Hindavi**, the common language, for communication.
- Sufi poets often used long poems, using human love to symbolise divine love.
  - Eg- **Malik Muhammad Jayasi's "Padmavat"** narrates the story of **Padmini and Ratansen** to represent the soul's journey to the divine.
- **Bijapur** and **Karnataka** saw the creation of Sufi poetry, specifically in **Dakhani**, a form of Urdu associated with Chishti Sufis. The Sufis in this region drew inspiration from the **bhakti tradition** of **Kannada Vachanas**.

Sufis and the State

- The Chishti tradition maintained austerity but not political isolation and accepted grants and tax-free lands from rulers.
  - **Eg**- the **Shrine of Khwaja Muinuddin** received early funding from **Sultan Ghiyasuddin Khalji** of Malwa in the late 15th century.
- Their piety, scholarship, and perceived miraculous abilities made them popular, attracting the support that kings desired.

Jahanara's biography of Shaikh Muinuddin Chishti, titled **Munis al Arwah** (The Confidant of Spirits)

  - **Eg- Emperor Akbar** frequently visited the shrine of **Khwaja Muinuddin (Ajmer)**, giving generously and building a mosque on the premises. Shah Jahan along with his daughter Jahanara, also visited the shrine.
- Rulers of the Delhi Sultanate sought approval from Sufis, who had direct divine authority, to counterbalance the ulema's push for shari'a law.
  - **Eg- Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq** was the first Sultan to visit the **shrine of Khwaja Muinuddin**.
- Instances of conflict arose between Sultans and sufis, often stemming from specific rituals, such as **Sijda (prostration)** and **Paibos (foot-kissing)**.
  - **Eg -** Disagreement of Chishti Sufis over the policies pursued by Muhammad Tughlaq.
- **Sufi Shaikhs** were occasionally **honoured with titles**.
  - Eg - The disciples of **Nizamuddin Auliya** addressed him as **Sultan-ul-mashaikh**.
- Sufis, like the **Suhrawardi under the Delhi Sultans** and the **Naqshbandi under the Mughals,** had connections with the state. Still, their methods of association **differed** from the Chishtis in their approach towards spiritualism and donations from the state.
  - Eg **- Bahauddin Zakariya** received the title **Shaikh-ul Islam** and wealth from **Iltutmish**, adopting a more worldly approach.
- Some Sufis even accepted courtly positions.

MAJOR TEACHERS OF THE CHISHTI SILSILA

SUFI SAINTS	Important Points	Location of Dargah	Time
Shaikh Muinuddin Sijzi/ Moinuddin Chishti	Came to India at the time of the Ghori conquest.	Ajmer (Rajasthan)	(1143–1235)
Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki	Qutb Minar is dedicated to him.	Delhi	(1173 – 1235)
Shaikh Fariduddin Ganj-i Shakar/ Baba Farid	Guru Granth Sahib includes hymns written by him.	Ajodhan (Pakistan)	(1178–1271)
Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya	Witnessed the reign of seven successive Sultans of Delhi.	Delhi	(1238-1325)
Shaikh Nasiruddin Chiragh-i Dehlavi	Also known as Roshan Chirag-e-Delhi or 'illuminated lamp of Delhi'	Delhi	(1274–1337)

Shaikh Nizamuddin Aulia

He was the disciple of **Baba Farid**. He guided the common masses and the aristocrats. The kings paid him great respect and often sought his exhortations, particularly at the time of invasion. His hospice always remained crowded. He offered food and shelter to all those who visited him and never discriminated on the basis of caste, creed, or colour.

- **Amir Khusrau**, a **disciple of Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya**, introduced the **qaul, a hymn**, which was sung at the start or end of qawwali performances.
- Qawwali blends Persian, Hindavi, and Urdu languages and remains a widespread tradition at shrines in the subcontinent.
- His teachings were compiled in the book **'Fawaidul Fawad' by Amir Hassan Sizzi.**
- He was also known as **'Mehboob-e-Ilahi.'**

Qadriya Order

- **Founder**: **Abdul Qadir Jilani** (migrated into India from the Persio-Arab land); **Shah Namatullah** was another saint associated with it.
  - **Muhibullah Shah**, **Miyan Meer,** and **Dara Shikoh** (the eldest son of Shahjahan) were the representative sufis of this order.
- The Qadriyas were not much different from the Chistis except that they owed allegience to their elders.
- Qadriya order in India was introduced quite late in the last decades of the 14th century. The order became more popular in the Muslim world, including India, due to the induction of Ibnul Arabi into the fold.
- Most of its followers, therefore, were the staunch supporters of the very controversial theory of the unity of existence, **Wahdat-ul Wujood**.
- The Qadriya order remained less significant in India as compared to the other three major orders.
- Urdu poets **Hasrat Mohani** and **Muhammad Iqbal** were associated with this order.

Suharwardi Order

- **Founder**: Sheikh Shahabuddin Suharwardi Maqtul. He introduced the **doctrine of light (Nur)** into Sufism
  - **Bahauddin Zakarya, a contemporary of Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya,** was the most important Sufi of the Suharwardi order in India. He made it popular, particularly in Northern India
- Unlike the Chishti saints, the Suharwardis considered the **accumulation of wealth** indispensable to offer better services to humanity.
- Introduced later than Chistiya, the order remained popular only for a short time.

Naqshbandi Order

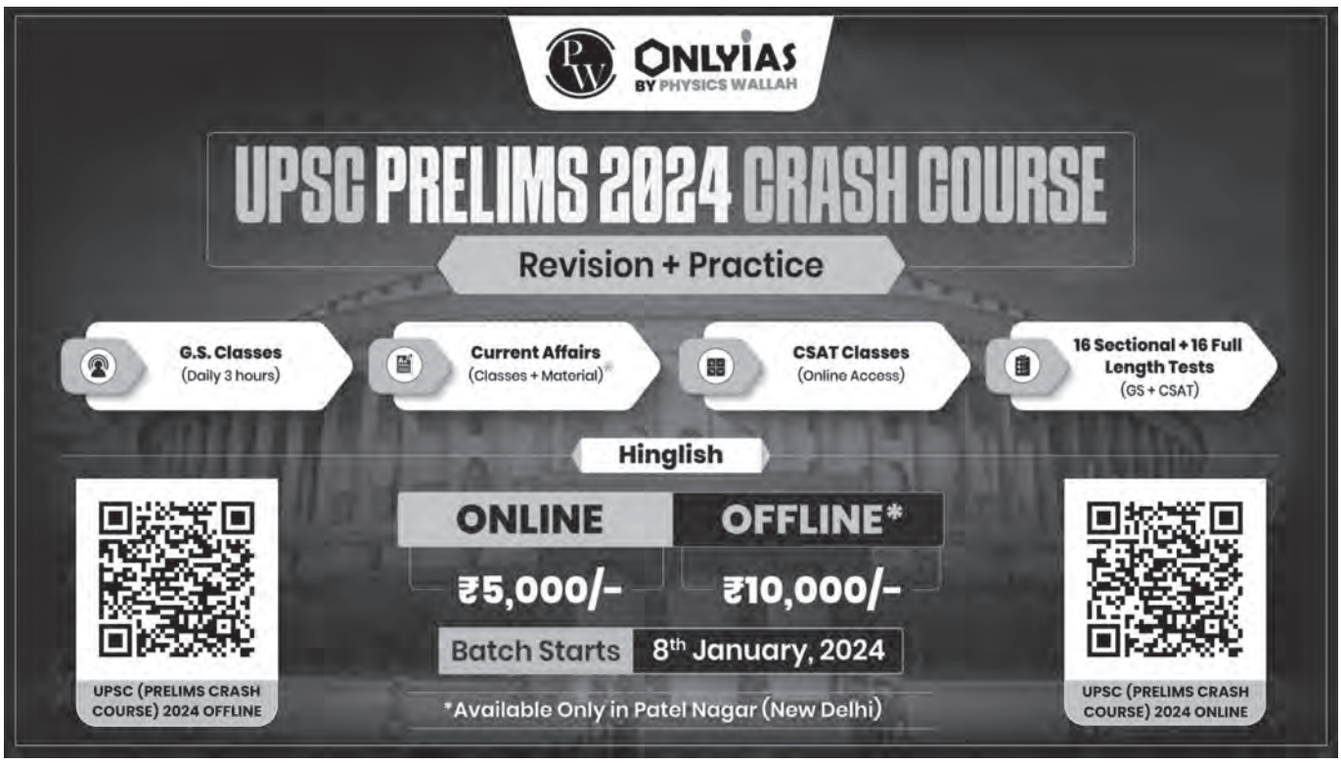
- **Founder**: Khwaja Baha-ul-din Naqsh band.
  - Popularised by Khawja **Naseer-ul-din Ubaidullah Ahrar**. He lived in the Turkish Empire in the city of Samarqand. He encouraged the Timurid princes to invade the states like Tashqand and merge them into their kingdom.
- The Naqsh Bandya order was introduced in India with the invasion of **Babar**.
- Naqsh bandya order was less tolerant as compared to the Chishties, Qadries, and Suhawardies.
- Naqshbandies traced their origin from the first caliph, Abu Bakr, unlike the other three orders.
- Their puritanical approach made them austere and obstinately hard-liners. They recommended to the Mughal kings to impose jaziya (a kind of tax) on the Hindu subjects. The Mughal kings, however, never acted upon their advice.
- **Shaikh Ahmad Sir Hindi**, a noted Naqsh Bandi Saint, vehemently criticised Akbar for his policy of "Sulah-e-Kul" (compromise with all and his religion), "Deen-e-Ilahi" the religion of God, which Akbar founded for the fulfilment of his mission.
- The early Nakshbandies were inclined towards **Wahadata-ul-Wadjood**, the unity of existence, the theory of **Ibnul-Arabi.**
- Later on, **Shaikh Ahmad Sir Hindi** propounded another theory known as the unity of appearance, **Wahadul-ul-Shahood.**
- It produced many notable saints like Khwaja Khurd, Ahmad Sir Hindi, Khawaja Masoom, Shah Wali-ulah, and his son Shah Abdul Azeez.
- Shah Wali-ullah was another outstanding sufi of this order. He also asserted that the Wahdut-ul-wujood and wahdut-ul-Shahood are simply two stages in the mystic journey.

Bhakti and Sufi Interaction

- They both interacted extensively. The Nathpanthi yogis, popular among various social strata, visited Chishti khanqahs for discussions on mysticism. Translations of yogic texts influenced Sufis' adoption of meditation practises.
- The Chishti Sufis embraced the ethical values of the yogis, fostering mutual understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims. This interaction led to cultural synthesis, including the composition of mystical poetry in regional languages and syncretic religious literature, especially in rural areas. Ex- **Use of Hindavi by Chistis.**

TIMELINE SOME MAJOR RELIGIOUS TEACHERS IN THE SUBCONTINENT	
c. 500-800 CE	Appar, Sambandar, Sundaramurti in Tamil Nadu
c. 800-900	Nammalvar, Manikkavachakar, Andal, Tondaradippodi in Tamil Nadu
c. 1000-1100	Al Hujwiri, Data Ganj Bakhsh in the Punjab; Ramanujacharya in Tamil Nadu
c.1100-1200	Basavanna in Karnataka
c. 1200-1300	Jnanadeva, Muktabai in Maharashtra; Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti in Rajasthan; Bahauddin Zakariyya and Fariduddin Ganj-i Shakar in the Punjab: Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki in Delhi
c. 1300-1400	Lal Ded in Kashmir: Lal Shahbaz Qalandar in Sind; Nizamuddin Auliya in Delhi; Ramananda in Uttar Pradesh; Chokhamela in Maharashtra: Sharafuddin Yahya Maneri in Bihar
c.1400-1500	Kabir, Raidas, Surdas in Uttar Pradesh; Baba Guru Nanak in the Punjab; Vallabhacharya in Gujarat; Abdullah Shattari in Gwalior; Muhammad Shah Alam in Gujarat; Mir Sayyid Muhammad Gesu Daraz in Gulbarga, Shankaradeva in Assam; Tukaram in Maharashtra
c.1500-1600	Sri Chaitanya in Bengal; Mirabai in Rajasthan; Shaikh Abdul Quddus Gangohi, Malik Muhammad Jaisi, Tulsidas in Uttar Pradesh
c.1600-1700	Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi in Haryana; Miyan Mir in the Punjab

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7 Through The Eyes of Travellers

AL-BIRUNI (KITAB-UL-HIND)

Introduction

- **Al-Biruni** was born in 973 AD in **Khwarizm**.
- He was proficient in **Syriac, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew,** and **Sanskrit**.
- In **1017**, during **Sultan Mahmud's invasion** of Khwarizm Al-Biruni went to **Ghazni** and got settled there.

The region of **Khwarizm** lies in modern day **Turkmenistan**, **Uzbekistan** and **Kazakhstan.**

- **Inclusion of Punjab in the Ghaznavid empire** helped him to travel extensively in northern India and study Sanskrit and Indian culture.

Translations

- He translated **Sanskrit** texts on **astronomy, mathematics**, and **medicine** into **Arabic**.
  - **Patanjali's** grammar was translated into **Arabic.**
- He found Sanskrit as a **challenging language** due to its vast vocabulary and complex inflections.
- He translated works of Greek mathematician **Euclid** into **Sanskrit**.

Kitab-ul-Hind (Tahqiq-i-Hind/History of India)

It is a comprehensive text **written in Arabic**, covering diverse subjects like religion, philosophy, astronomy, alchemy, customs, social life, laws, and metrology (science of measurement and its application).

Al-Biruni's Description of the Caste System

- **Observations were based on** Vedas, Puranas, Bhagavad Gita, Patanjali's works, and the Manusmriti.
  - Social divisions were **not unique to India**. (Ancient Persia already had four social categories.)
  - Accepted the presence of Brahmanical rigid caste system.
  - Disapproved of the **concept of pollution**, arguing that it **contradicted the laws of nature**.

However**, Antyaja** (born outside the system) provided inexpensive labour for the economy. While they were often subjected to social oppression, they were included within economic networks.

Origin of the Term "Hindu"

Old Persian word (**6th-5th centuries BCE**) used to denote the **region east of the Indus River**. Arabs continued to refer

to the region as **"al-Hind"** and its people as "**Hindi**." Later, the **Turks used "Hindu"** for the people east of the Indus,

while "**Hindustan**" described their land, and "**Hindavi**" their language. However, it didn't indicate religious identity

then, and it got associated with the term much later.

IBN BATTUTA (RIHLA)

Introduction

- He was born in **Tangier (Morocco)**.
- He is famous for his 'book of travels', **RIHLA which** offers insights into the subcontinent's **social** and **cultural** life in the **14th century**.
- Ibn Battuta valued experiential knowledge gained through travel over books.
  - He travelled to **Syria, Iraq, Persia, Yemen, Oman**, and **East African trading ports.**

Service in Delhi and Exploration of South Asia and Beyond

- Travelling through Central Asia, he reached **Sind in 1333**. Lured by **Muhammad bin Tughlaq's** reputation as a patron of arts and letters, he set off for Delhi.
- Impressed by his scholarship, **Muhammad bin Tughlaq** appointed him as the **qazi (judge) of Delhi** and later **sent him to China as the Sultan's envoy** to the Mongol ruler in 1342.
- Ibn Battuta **travelled** through central India to the **Malabar coast**, the Maldives (stayed for 18 months as **qazi**), Sri Lanka, Bengal, Assam, and Sumatra before reaching the **Chinese port town of Zaytun (Quanzhou)**. In China, he ventured as far as **Beijing** before deciding to return to Morocco in **1347** for which he is often compared to **Marco Polo (Venice)**,

who **explored China and India** in the **late 13th century**.

The coconut and the paan: Ibn Battuta's Description

- **Coconut and Paan were two unfamiliar plants to him.** He described the betel (paan) as a tree cultivated similar to **grapevines**, primarily for its leaves.

About Cities

Delhi:

He provides a detailed description of **Delhi**, a city with **Twenty-eight gates**, **Budaun Darwaza** (largest), **Mandwi Darwaza** (grain markets inside) and **Gul Darwaza** (near an orchard).

Daulatabad (Maharashtra)

- He also provides a detailed description of **Daulatabad** which was similar in size to Delhi.
- Bazaars served not only as **economic centers** but also as **hubs of social** and **cultural activities**. Most bazaars **had both a mosque and a temple**, and some provided **spaces for public performances** by dancers, musicians, and singers.

The Prosperity of Towns

- **Indian agriculture** was **highly productive** (farmers cultivating **two crops** annually);
- The **subcontinent was well-integrated** into **inter-Asian trade networks**, with high demand for Indian textiles.
- The state provided **inns** and **guesthouses** along almost all trade routes.
- The **postal system** was very **efficient** (merchants could **send information**, **remit credit** across long distances and **dispatch urgently needed goods**).
- However, **Slavery was prevalent**. **Slaves were openly sold** in markets and **regularly given as gifts**.

FRANÇOIS BERNIER (TRAVELS IN THE MUGHAL EMPIRE)

Introduction

- Born in France, he was a **doctor, political philosopher**, and **historian**.
- He arrived in the **Mughal Empire** in search of opportunities under the protection of **Daneshmand Khan** (an important official at the court of Aurangzeb)**.**
- He spent **12 years** in India (1656-1668) and served as a **physician to Prince Dara Shukoh,** and often travelled with the Mughal army.
- He presented detailed observations and critical insights in his work **"Travels in the Mughal Empire".**
- His major work was **dedicated to Louis XIV**, King of France

Comparing East and West (Bernier's Observations)

- He documented his travel experiences and drew comparisons with Europe, where he found India **lagging behind** it, often calling it the **degenerate East.**
- He highlighted the **treatment of women** -the practise of **Sati** , participation in commercial activities like agricultural and non-agricultural labour. Overall, women were not confined to the private spaces of their homes.
- The **absence of private ownership of land** in Mughal India was fundamentally different from that of Europe.

Impact and Influence

- He influenced **Montesquieu**, who developed the **idea of oriental despotism**.

Complex Social Reality

- **Artisans lacked incentives to improve their products** as state-appropriated profits hindered progress.
- There was a decline in manufacturing.
- **Existence of a prosperous merchant community** engaged in long-distance trade.
- Significant quantities of **precious metals flowed into India** in return for exports.
- **Urban Population:** During the 17th century, approximately 15% of the population lived in towns, a higher proportion than in Western Europe during the same period.
- Bernier described Mughal cities as **"camp towns"** that **relied on imperial patronage,** i.e., they rapidly declined when the imperial court moved out indicating that they **lacked viable social and economic foundations**.
- Various types of towns existed, including **manufacturing towns, trading towns, port towns, sacred centres,** and **pilgrimage towns**.

Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (France) was a well-known **gem trader and traveller**. The **Tavernier Blue diamond**, which Tavernier discovered or bought in 1666, is what made him most famous. He went into great detail on **Indian diamonds and diamond mines. [UPSC 2018]. He** visited India atleast six times.

TABLE ON FOREIGN TRAVELLERS

PERIOD (century)	TIMELINE	RELATED RULERS	TRAVELLERS (COUNTRY)
10th	914-928	Rashtrakuta, Gurjara-Pratihara	Al-Masudi (Iraq)
	973-1048	Mahmud of Ghazni	Al-Biruni (Uzbekistan)
	940-1019		Firdausi (Iran) - "Homer of the East"
13th	1227	Slave Dynasty (Sultanate)	Minhaj - us - Siraj (Iran)
	1292-93	Pandyas	Marco Polo (Italy)
14th	1304-77	Md. Bin Tughlaq	Ibn Battuta (Morocco)
15th	1420	Deva Raya II (Vijayanagar)	Niccolò de' Conti(Italy)
	1440s		Abdur Razzaq Samarqandi (Uzbekistan)
	1469	Bahmani	Afanasii Nikitich Nikitin (Russia)
16th	1518	Vijayanagar	Duarte Barbosa, d.1521 (Portugal)
	1520	Krishnadev Raya	Domingo Paes (Portugal)
	1536-1600	Akbar	Antonio Monserrate (Spain)
17th	1600-67	Shah Jahan	Peter Mundy (England)
	1605-89	Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb	Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (France)
	1620-88	Aurangzeb	François Bernier (France)

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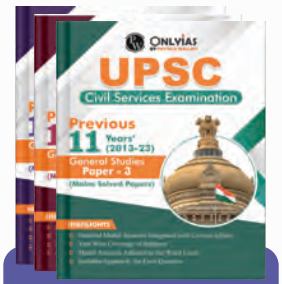
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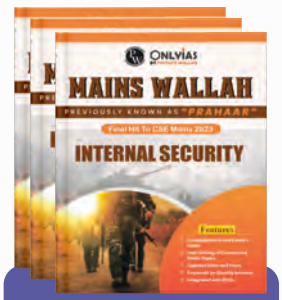
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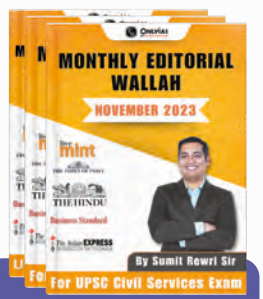
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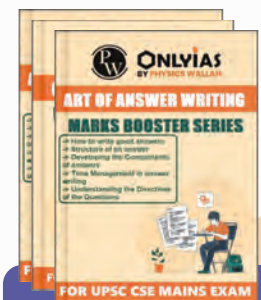
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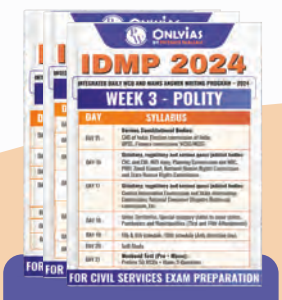
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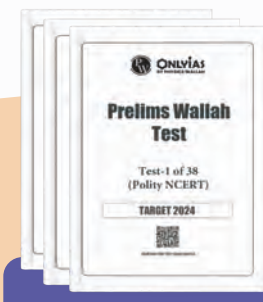
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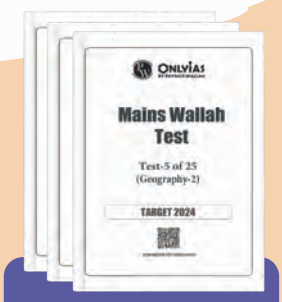
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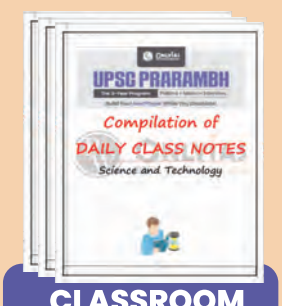
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