

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

4 Oct to 10 Oct 2021

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

History

Q.1) Consider the following pair of authors and their books:

Author	Book
1. Amir Khusrau	Khazain Ul Futuh
2. Al-Beruni	Tarikh-Al-Hind
3. Minhaj us Siraj	Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi

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

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Al-Beruni: Tarikh-Al-Hind (Indian Philosophy and Religion written in Arabic)

- Minhaj us Siraj: Tabaqat-i-Nasiri (1260) (World Islamic History written in Arabic)
- Ziauddin Barani: Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi(1357) History of Delhi Sultanate up to Firuz Tughlaq
- Amir Khusrau: Mifta Ul Futuh (Victories of Jalal-ud-din Khalji); Khazain Ul Futuh (Victories of Allauddin Khalji - Texts in Persian)
- Tughlaq Nama (History of Tughlaq dynasty in Persian)
- Shams-i-Siraj Afif: Tarikh i Firuz Shahi (after Barani's account of Delhi Sultanate in Persian)

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Who among the following holds the title of Yamini-ud-Daulah?

- a) Mahmud Ghazni
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Balban
- d) Sabuktigin

ANS: A

Explanation: Sabuktigin initiated the process of southward expansion into the Indian subcontinent.

- He defeated the Shahi ruler of Afghanistan, Jayapal, and conferred the governorship of the province on Mahmud, his eldest son. When Sabuktigin died in 997, Mahmud was in Khurasan.
- Ismail, the younger son of Sabuktigin had been named his successor.
- But defeating Ismail in a battle, Mahmud, aged twenty-seven, ascended the throne and the Caliph acknowledged his accession by sending him a robe of investiture and by conferring on him the title Yamini-ud-Daulah ('Right-hand of the Empire').

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Battles of Tarain were fought between which of the following kings?

- a) Prithviraj Chauhan vs. Allauddin Khilji
- b) Prithviraj Chauhan vs. Muhammad Ghori
- c) Jai Chandra vs. Babur
- d) Jai Chandra vs. Mahmud Ghazni

ANS: B

Explanation: Ghori attacked the fortress of Tabarhinda (Bhatinda), a strategic point for the Chauhans of Ajmer.

- The ruler of Ajmer Prithviraj Chauhan marched to Tabarhinda and faced the invader in the First Battle of Tarain (1191).
- Prithviraj scored a brilliant victory in 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.
- Ghori was wounded and carried away by a horseman to safety. Contrary to the expectations of Prithviraj Chauhan, Muhammad Ghori marched into India in the following year (1192).
- Prithviraj underestimated the potential danger of the enemy. In the Second Battle of Tarain, 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.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) The term 'Bandagan' during Delhi sultanate was used for which of the following?

- a) Land revenue
- b) Domestic labor
- c) Military Slaves
- d) Traders

ANS: C

Explanation: Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (1210-36) of Turkish extraction was a slave of Qutbud-din Aibak. Many of his elite slaves were also of Turkish and Mongol ancestry.

- They were brought to Delhi by merchants from trade centres like Bukhara, Samarqand and Baghdad. (There were some slaves of other ethnicities as well).
- But Iltutmish gave them all Turkish titles. Iltutmish's reliance on his elite military slaves (Bandagan) and his practice of appointing them for the posts of governors and generals in far-off places did not change despite the migration into North India of experienced military commanders from distinguished lineages fleeing from the Mongols.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Consider the following pairs:

Dynasty	Founder
1. Tughlaq	Muhammad Bin Tughlaq
2. Khaljis	Jala-ud-din-Khalji
3. Lodi	Bahlol Lodi

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

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq followed a policy of reconciliation with the nobles. But in the fifth year of his reign (1325) Ghiyas-uddin died.

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- Three days later Jauna ascended the throne and took the title Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
- Khaljis Dynasty was founded by Jalal-ud-din Khalji (1290-1296). He was succeeded by Ala-ud-din Khalji (1296–1316).
- The Lodi Dynasty was established by Bahlol Lodi (1451–1489) whose reign witnessed the conquest of Sharqi Kingdom (Bengal).
- It was his son Sikander Lodi (1489–1517) who shifted the capital from Delhi to Agra in 1504.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Arab conquest of Sind:

1. Dahar was the ruler of Sind when the Arabs invaded it in the 8th century.
2. Muhammad Bin Qasim led the strong army in the conquest of Sind.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Arab governor of Iraq, Hajjaj Bin Yusuf, under the pretext of acting against the pirates, sent two military expeditions against Dahar, the ruler of Sind, one by land and the other by sea. Both were defeated and commanders killed.

Hajjaj then sent, with the Caliph's permission, a full-fledged army, with 6000 strong cavalry and a large camel corps carrying all war requirements under the command of his son-in-law, a 17-year-old Muhammad Bin Qasim.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Amir Khusrau called himself an Indian in which of the following book?

- a) Nu Siphra
- b) Baburnama
- c) Fathl – I – Hind
- d) Akbarnama

ANS: A

Explanation: Amir Khusrau emerged as a major figure of Persian prose and poetry.

- Amir Khusrau felt elated to call himself an Indian in his Nu Siphra ('Nine Skies').
- In this work, he praises India's climate, its languages – notably Sanskrit – its arts, its music, its people, even its animals.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Consider the following pairs of the books and author who worked in collaborating Sanskrit literature with Persian literature:

Book	Author
1. Farhang-i-Qawas	Fakhr-ud-din Qawwas
2. Miftah-ul-Fuazala	Zia Nakshabi
3. Tuti Nama	Muhammad Shadiabadi

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

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

ANS: A

Explanation: Persian literature was enriched by the translation of Sanskrit works.

- Persian dictionaries with appropriate Hindawi words for Persian words were composed, the most important being Farhang-i-Qawas by Fakhr-ud-din Qawwas and Miftah-ul- Fuazala by Muhammad Shadiabadi.
- Tuti Namah, the Book of Parrots, is a collection of Sanskrit stories translated into Persian by Zia Nakshabi.
- Mahabharata and Rajatarangini were also translated into Persian.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Arch, dome, vaults and use of lime cement are the striking Saracenic features that were introduced by the Arabs.
2. A pleasure resort at Hauz Khas of Firuz Tughlaq is purely a building complex of Saracenic feature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Arch, dome, vaults and use of lime cement, the striking Saracenic features, were introduced in India by Arabs.

- The use of marble, red, grey and yellow sandstones added grandeur to the buildings. In the beginning the Sultans converted the existing buildings to suit their needs.
- Qutb-ud-din Aibak's Quwwat-ul- Islam mosque situated adjacent to Qutb Minar in Delhi and the Adhai din ka Jhopra in Ajmer illustrate these examples.
- A Hindu temple built over a Jain temple was modified into Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque. Adhai din ka Jhopra was earlier a Jain monastery before being converted as a mosque.
- With the arrival of artisans from West Asia the arch and dome began to show up with precision and perfection.
- Gradually local artisans also acquired the skill. The tomb of Balban was adorned with the first true arch and the Alai Darwaza built by Alaud- din Khalji as a gateway to the Quwwatul- Islam Mosque is adorned with the first true dome.
- The palace fortress built by Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq and Muhammad bin Tughlaq in Tughlaqabad, their capital city in Delhi, is remarkable for creating an artificial lake around the fortress by blocking the river Yamuna.
- The tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq introduced the system of sloping walls bearing the dome on a raised platform.
- The buildings of Firuz Tughlaq, especially his pleasure resort, Hauz Khas, combined Indian and Saracenic features in alternate storeys, displaying a sense of integration.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) The primary education in the Islamic World is provided at which of the following institution?

- a) Madrasa
- b) Maktab

- c) Mosque
- d) At residence

ANS: B

Explanation: Certain traditions of education were now implanted from the Islamic World. At the base was the maktab, where a schoolmaster taught children to read and write.

- At a higher level, important texts in various subjects were read by individual pupils with particular scholars who gave instruction (dars) in them.
- A more institutionalized form of higher education, the madrasa, became widely established in Central Asia and Iran in the eleventh century, and from there it spread to other Islamic countries.
- Usually the madrasa had a building, where instruction was given by individual teachers. Often there was a provision of some cells for resident students, a library and a mosque.
- Firoz Tugluq built a large madrasa at Delhi whose splendid building still stands. From Barani's description it would seem that teaching here was mainly confined to "Quran-commentary, the Prophet's sayings and the Muslim Law (fiqh)."
- It is said that Sikander Lodi (1489– 1517) appointed teachers in maktab and madrasas in various cities throughout his dominions, presumably making provision for them through land or cash grants.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

History

Q.1) Consider the following statements about the military campaign of Ala-ud-din Khalji:

1. Ala-ud-din sent a large army commanded by Malik Kafur to Deccan area.
2. The first target in the peninsula was Warangal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The inability of the Sultanate to effectively harness the agrarian resources of its North Indian territories to sustain its political ambitions was evident in its relentless military campaigns in search of loot and plunder.

- Ala-ud-din's campaigns into Devagiri (1296, 1307, 1314), Gujarat (1299–1300), Ranthambhor (1301), Chittor (1303) and Malwa (1305) were meant to proclaim his political and military power as well as to collect loot from the defeated kingdoms.
- It was with the same plan that he unleashed his forces into the Deccan.
- The first target in the peninsula was Devagiri in the western Deccan. Ala-ud-din sent a large army commanded by Malik Kafur in 1307 to capture Devagiri fort.
- Following Devagiri, Prataparudradeva, the Kakatiya ruler of Warangal in the Telengana region, was defeated in 1309.
- In 1310 the Hoysala ruler Vira Ballala III surrendered all his treasures to the Delhi forces.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Who among the following was assisted Qutb-ud-din Aibak in conquering Bihar and Bengal?

- a) Muhammad Ghori
- b) Muhammad Bin Bhakthiyar Khalji
- c) Iltutmish
- d) Balban

ANS: B

Explanation: Qutb-ud-din Aibak was enslaved as a boy and sold to Sultan Muhammad Ghori at Ghazni.

- Impressed with his ability and loyalty the Sultan elevated him to the rank of viceroy of the conquered provinces in India.
- Muhammad Bin Bhakthiyar Khalji, a Turkish general from Afghanistan assisted him in conquering Bihar and Bengal.
- Qutb-ud-din Aibak reigned for four years (1206 to 1210 CE) and died in 1210 in Lahore in an accident while playing chaugan.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Consider the following statements about Chahalgani system:

1. The Chahalgani system was started by Qutb-ud-din Aibak.
2. Iltutmish abolished the Chahalgani System.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: In the Delhi Sultanate, nobles were drawn from different tribes and nationalities like the Turkish, Persian, Arabic, Egyptian and Indian Muslims.

- Iltutmish organized a Corps of Forty, all drawn from Turkish nobility and selected persons from this Forty for appointments in military and civil administration.
- The Corps of Forty became so powerful to the extent of disregarding the wishes of Iltutmish, and after his death, to place Rukn-ud-Din Firoz on the throne.
- Razziya sought to counter the influence of Turkish nobles and defend her interest by organizing a group of non-Turkish and Indian Muslim nobles under the leadership of Yakut, the Abyssinian slave. This was naturally resented by the Turkish nobles, who got both of them murdered.
- Thus in the absence of rule of primogeniture, the nobles sided with any claimants to the throne and either helped in the choice of the Sultan or contributed to the destabilization of the regime.
- The nobles were organized into several factions and were constantly engaged in conspiracies.
- Balban therefore abolished the Corps of Forty and thereby put an end to the domination of "Turkish nobles".
- Alauddin Khalji also took stern measures against the "Turkish nobles" by employing spies to report to him directly on their clandestine and perfidious activities.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Who among the following was the first ruler to pay his soldiers in cash?

- a) Ashoka
- b) Balban
- c) Gautamiputra Satakarni
- d) Alauddin Khalji

ANS: D

Explanation: Ala-ud-din was the first Sultan to pay his soldiers in cash rather than give them a share of booty.

- As the soldiers were paid less, the prices had to be monitored and controlled. Moreover, Ala-ud-din had to maintain a huge standing army.
- In order to restrict prices of essential commodities, Ala-ud-din set up an elaborate intelligence network to collect information on black-marketing and hoarding.
- The transactions in the bazaars, the buying and selling and the bargains made were all reported to the Sultan by his spies.
- Market superintendents, reporters and spies had to send daily reports on the prices of essential commodities.
- Violators of the price regulations were severely punished. If any deficiency in weight was found, an equal weight of flesh was cut from the seller's body and thrown down before his eyes!

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

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Q.5) Diwan-i-Amir Kohi is a department during Delhi Sultanate related to which of the following?

- a) Agriculture
- b) Slavery
- c) Spy
- d) Military

ANS: A

Explanation: Equally innovative was Muhammad Tughlaq's scheme to expand cultivation. But it also failed miserably.

- It coincided with a prolonged and severe famine in the Doab. The peasants who rebelled were harshly dealt with.
- The famine was linked to the oppressive and arbitrary collection of land revenue. The Sultan established a separate department (Diwan-i-Amir Kohi) to take care of agriculture.
- Loans were advanced to farmers for purchase of cattle, seeds and digging of wells but to no avail.
- Officers appointed to monitor the crops were not efficient; the nobility and important officials were of diverse background.
- Besides, the Sultan's temperament had also earned him a lot of enemies.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Who among the following was the founder of Sayyid Dyanasty?

- a) Khizr Khan
- b) Sikander Lodi
- c) Bahlol Lodi
- d) Yahiya bin Ahmad Sirhindi

ANS: A

Explanation: Timur appointed Khizr Khan as his deputy to oversee Timurid interests in the Punjab marches. Khizr Khan (1414-21) went on to seize Delhi and establish the Sayyid dynasty (1414-51).

- The Sayyid dynasty established by Khizr Khan had four sultans ruling up to 1451. The early Sayyid Sultans ruled paying tribute to Timur's son.
- Their rule is marked for the composing of Tarikh-i- Mubarak Shahi by Yahiya bin Ahmad Sirhindi. By the end of their rule the empire was largely confined to the city of Delhi.
- In the entire history of the Delhi Sultanate there was only one Sultan who voluntarily abdicated his throne and moved to a small town away from Delhi, where he lived for three full decades in contentment and peace. He was Alam Shah of the Sayyid dynasty.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Consider the following pairs:

Term	Meaning
1. Muqtis	Holder of Iqta's
2. Khalisa	Temple land grants
3. Hashm-i-qalb	Community lands

Which of the above given pair is/are correctly NOT matched?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only

- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 2 and 3 only

ANS: D

Explanation: The Delhi Sultanate deserves to be considered an all-India empire.

- Virtually all of India, except Kashmir and Kerala at the far ends of the subcontinent, and a few small tracts in between them had come under the direct rule of Delhi towards the close of Muhammad bin Tughlaq's rule.
- There were no well-defined and accepted rules of royal succession and therefore contested succession became the norm during the Sultanate.
- The Sultans required the holders of iqta's (called muqtis or walis) to maintain troops for royal service out of the taxes collected by them.
- Certain areas were retained by the Sultans under their direct control (khalisa).
- It was out of the revenue collected from such areas that they paid the officers and soldiers of the sultan's own troops (hashm-i qalb).

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Who among the following rulers shifted capital from Delhi to Agra during Delhi Sultanate?

- a) Muhammad Bin Tughlaq
- b) All-ud-din Khalji
- c) Sikander Lodhi
- d) Balban

ANS: C

Explanation: The Lodi Dynasty was established by Bahlol Lodi (1451–1489) whose reign witnessed the conquest of Sharqi Kingdom (Bengal).

- It was his son Sikander Lodi (1489–1517) who shifted the capital from Delhi to Agra in 1504.
- The last Lodi ruler Ibrahim Lodi was defeated by Babur in the First Battle of Panipat, which resulted in the establishment of Mughal Dynasty.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) During whose reign Timur from Central Asia invaded India?

- a) Muhammad Shah
- b) All-ud-din Khalji
- c) Sikandar Lodhi
- d) Muhammad bin Tughlaq

ANS: A

Explanation: The last Tughlaq ruler was Nasir-ud-din Muhammad Shah (1394–1412), whose reign witnessed the invasion of Timur from Central Asia.

- Turkish Timur, who could claim a blood relationship with the 12th century great Mongol Chengiz Khan, ransacked Delhi virtually without any opposition.
- On hearing the news of arrival of Timur, Sultan Nasir-ud-din fled Delhi.
- Timur also took Indian artisans such as masons, stone cutters, carpenters whom he engaged for raising buildings in his capital Samarkhand.
- Nasir-ud-din managed to rule up to 1412. Then the Sayyid and Lodi dynasties ruled the declining empire from Delhi till 1526.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) In India who among the following was the first ruler to impose Jaziya on non-muslims?

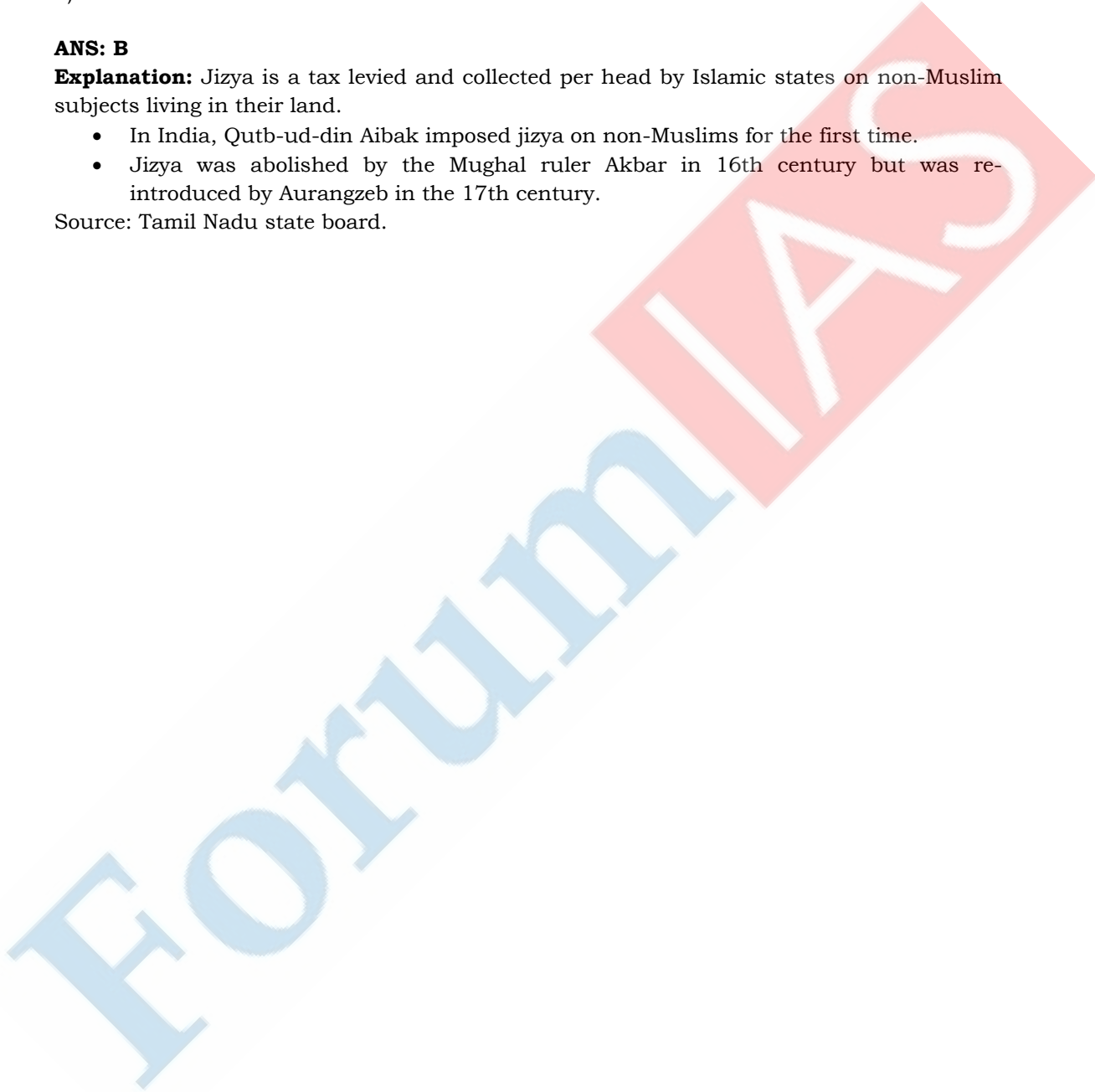
- a) Balban
- b) Qutub-ud-Aibak
- c) Feroz-sha Tughlaq
- d) Muhmmad Ghori

ANS: B

Explanation: Jizya is a tax levied and collected per head by Islamic states on non-Muslim subjects living in their land.

- In India, Qutb-ud-din Aibak imposed jizya on non-Muslims for the first time.
- Jizya was abolished by the Mughal ruler Akbar in 16th century but was re-introduced by Aurangzeb in the 17th century.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.



History

Q.1) Consider the following pairs:

Text	Author
1. Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi	Yahiya bin Ahmad Sirhindi
2. Nu Siphir	Al beruni
3. Futuh-us-Salatin	Salim Chisti

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

- 1 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

ANS: A

Explanation: The early Sayyid Sultans ruled paying tribute to Timur's son. Their rule is marked for the composing of Tarikh-i- Mubarak Shahi by Yahiya bin Ahmad Sirhindi. By the end of their rule the empire was largely confined to the city of Delhi.

- Amir Khusrau emerged as a major figure of Persian prose and poetry. Amir Khusrau felt elated to call himself an Indian in his Nu Siphir ('Nine Skies').
- In this work, he praises India's climate, its languages – notably Sanskrit – its arts, its music, its people, even its animals. The Islamic Sufi saints made a deep literary impact.
- The Fawai'd-ul-Fawad, a work containing the conversations of Sufi Saint Nizam-ud-din Auliya was compiled by Amir Hassan.
- Abdul Malik Isami, in his poetic composition of Futuh-us-Salatin, records the history of Muslim rule from Ghaznavid period to Muhammad bin Tughlaq's reign.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Who among the following used Firdausi's Shah Namah as a model in composing Zainavilas?

- Shrivara
- Vasugupta
- Amir Hassan
- Bhattavatara

ANS: D

Explanation: Delhi Sultanate did not hamper the progress of Sanskrit Literature. Sanskrit continued to be the language of high intellectual thought.

- The Sanskrit schools and academies established in different parts of the empire continued to flourish.
- The classical Sanskrit inscription (Pala Baoli) of 1276 in Delhi claims that due to the benign rule of Sultan Balban god Vishnu sleeps in peace in the ocean of milk without any worries.
- The influence of Arabic and Persian on Sanskrit literature was felt in the form of translations.
- Shrivara in his Sanskrit work Kathakautuka included the story of Yusuf and Zulaika as a Sanskrit love lyric.

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- Bhattavartara took Firdausi's Shah Namah as a model for composing Zainavilas, a history of the rulers of Kashmir.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Which ruler's interest led to the translation of Sanskrit musical work Rag Darpan into Persian?

- a) Iltutmish
- b) Balban
- c) Firuz Tughlaq
- d) Alauddin Khilji

ANS: C

Explanation: Music was an area where the syncretic tendencies were clearly visible. Muslims brought their musical instruments like Rabab and Sarangi.

- Amir Khusrau proclaimed that Indian music had a pre-eminence over all the other music of the world.
- The Sufi practice of Sama, recitation of love poetry to the accompaniment of music, was instrumental in promotion of music.
- Pir Bhodan, a Sufi saint, was considered a great musician of the age. Royal patronage for the growth of music was also forthcoming.
- Firuz Tughlaq evinced interest in music leading to synchronisation by translating an Indian Sanskrit musical work Rag Darpan into Persian.
- Dancing also received an impetus in the official court. Zia-ud-din Barani lists the names of Nusrat Khatun and Mihr Afroz as musician and dancer respectively in the court of Jalaluddin Khalji.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Consider the following statements about sculptures and paintings during Delhi Sulatanate period:

1. The architects continued decorating buildings with animal figures only.
2. They introduced Arabesque, the art of decorating the building with Quranic verses inscribed with calligraphy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Orthodox Islamic theology considered decorating the buildings with animal and human figures as un-Islamic.

- Hence the plastic exuberance of well-carved images found in the pre-Islamic buildings was replaced by floral and geometrical designs.
- Arabesque, the art of decorating the building with Quranic verses inscribed with calligraphy, emerged to provide splendor to the building.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Consider the following statements about the status of women during sultanate period:

1. Muslim women had right to obtain divorce.
2. Islam was against women being taught to read and write.
3. Hindu women had the right to inherit property.

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Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The Sultans did not alter many of the social institutions inherited from 'Indian Feudalism'.

- Slavery, though it had already existed in India, grew substantially in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.
- Both in war and in the event of default in payment of taxes, people could be enslaved. They were put to work as domestic servants as well as in crafts.
- The village community and the caste system remained largely unaltered. Gender inequalities remained practically untouched.
- In upper class Muslim society, women had to observe purdah and were secluded in the zenana (the female quarters) without any contact with any men other than their immediate family. Affluent women travelled in closed litters.
- Muslim women, despite purdah, enjoyed, in certain respects, higher status and greater freedom in society than most Hindu women.
- They could inherit property from their parents and obtain divorce, privileges that Hindu women did not have.
- In several Hindu communities, such as among the Rajputs, the birth of a girl child was considered a misfortune.
- Islam was not against women being taught to read and write. But it tolerated polygamy.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Paper making technology, which evolved in China, was introduced in India by which rule among the following?

- a) Mauryas
- b) Satavahanas
- c) Delhi Sultans
- d) Rashtrakutas

ANS: C

Explanation: Paper-making technology evolved by the Chinese and learnt by the Arabs was introduced in India during the rule of the Delhi Sultans.

- The spinning wheel invented by the Chinese came to India through Iran in the fourteenth century and enabled the spinner to increase her output some sixfold and enlarged yarn production greatly.
- The subsequent introduction of treadles in the loom similarly helped speed-up weaving.
- Sericulture was established in Bengal by the fifteenth century.
- Building activity attained a new scale by the large use of brick and mortar, and by the adoption of the vaulting techniques.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Who among the following issued gold coins stamped with image of goddess Lakshmi?

- a) Muhammad Ghori
- b) Balban

- c) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
- d) Iltutmish

ANS: A

Explanation: An important aspect of Islam in India was its early acceptance of a long-term coexistence with Hinduism, despite all the violence that occurred in military campaigns, conquests and depredations.

- The conqueror Mu'izzuddin of Ghor had, on some of his gold coins, stamped the image of the goddess Lakshmi.
- Muhammad Tughlaq in 1325 issued a farman enjoining that protection be extended by all officers to Jain priests; he himself played holi and consorted with yogis.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Who among the following is known to have translated Patanjali's work into Persian and the works of Euclid (Greek mathematician) into Sanskrit?

- a) Amir Khusrau
- b) Al-Biruni
- c) Ibn Battuta
- d) Abu'l Fazl

ANS: B

Explanation: Al-Biruni was born in 973, in Khwarizm in presentday Uzbekistan. Khwarizm was an important centre of learning, and Al-Biruni received the best education available at the time.

- He was well versed in several languages: Syriac, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew and Sanskrit.
- Although he did not know Greek, he was familiar with the works of Plato and other Greek philosophers, having read them in Arabic translations.
- In 1017, when Sultan Mahmud invaded Khwarizm, he took several scholars and poets back to his capital, Ghazni; Al-Biruni was one of them.
- He arrived in Ghazni as a hostage, but gradually developed a liking for the city, where he spent the rest of his life until his death at the age of 70.
- Al-Biruni's expertise in several languages allowed him to compare languages and translate texts.
- He translated several Sanskrit works, including Patanjali's work on grammar, into Arabic. For his Brahmana friends, he translated the works of Euclid (a Greek mathematician) into Sanskrit.

Source: NCERT Themes in Indian History.

Q.9) Which of the following is the term used for the practice of pilgrimage to the graves of sheikh?

- a) Ziyarat
- b) Tasawwuf
- c) Dargah
- d) Barakat

ANS: A

Explanation: Institutionally, the sufis began to organise communities around the hospice or khanqah (Persian) controlled by a teaching master known as shaikh (in Arabic), pir or murshid (in Persian).

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- He enrolled disciples (murids) and appointed a successor (khalifa). He established rules for spiritual conduct and interaction between inmates as well as between laypersons and the master.
- When the shaikh died, his tomb-shrine (dargah, a Persian term meaning court) became the centre of devotion for his followers.
- This encouraged the practice of pilgrimage or ziyarat to his grave, particularly on his death anniversary or urs (or marriage, signifying the union of his soul with God).
- This was because people believed that in death saints were united with God, and were thus closer to Him than when living.
- People sought their blessings to attain material and spiritual benefits. Thus evolved the cult of the sheikh revered as wali.

Source: NCERT Themes in Indian History.

Q.10) Who among the following is the composer of the love story 'Padmavat' which revolved around the romance of Padmini and Ratansen, the king of Chittor?

- a) Abul Fazal
- b) Malik Muhammad Jayasi
- c) Amir Khusrau
- d) Tansen

ANS: B

Explanation: It was not just in sama that the Chishtis adopted local languages. In Delhi, those associated with the Chishti silsila conversed in Hindavi, the language of the people.

- Other sufis such as Baba Farid composed verses in the local language, which were incorporated in the Guru Granth Sahib.
- Yet others composed long poems or masnavis to express ideas of divine love using human love as an allegory.
- For example, the prem-akhyan (love story) Padmavat composed by Malik Muhammad Jayasi revolved around the romance of Padmini and Ratansen, the king of Chittor.
- Their trials were symbolic of the soul's journey to the divine. Such poetic compositions were often recited in hospices, usually during sama.

Source: NCERT Themes in Indian History.

History

Q.1) Vijayanagara kingdom was established on banks of which river?

- a) Musi River
- b) Kaveri River
- c) Tungabhadra
- d) Amaravathi River

ANS: C

Explanation: Zafar Khan who declared independence in 1345 at Devagiri shifted his capital to Gulbarga in northern Karnataka.

- He took the title, Bahman Shah and the dynasty he inaugurated became known as the Bahmani dynasty (1347– 1527).
- A few years earlier, in 1336, the Vijayanagar kingdom was inaugurated by the Sangama brothers Harihara and Bukka at Vijayanagara (presentday Hampi) on the south bank of Tungabhadra.
- During the next two centuries these two states fought continually and bitterly, to control the rich Raichur doab, and also the sea ports of Goa, Honavar, etc. on the west coast, which were the supply points of the horses needed for their army.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Which Bahmani king won the fortress of Golkonda from the state of Warangal?

- a) Bahman Shah II
- b) Mohammed I
- c) Mohammed Gawan
- d) Mohammed I

ANS: B

Explanation: Rivalry with the Vijayanagar kingdom over the fertile Raichur doab, lying between the Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers, not only marked the early history of the Bahmani kingdom, but continued to be an enduring feature over two centuries.

- Bahman Shah had also to contend in the east with the rulers of Warangal and Orissa.
- Mohammed I succeeded Bahman Shah. There was a decade-long war with Vijayanagar, most of which related to control over the Raichur doab.
- Neither side gained lasting control over the region, in spite of the huge fatalities in battles. Two bitter wars with Vijayanagar gained him nothing.
- But his attack on Warangal in 1363 brought him a large indemnity, including the important fortress of Golkonda and the treasured turquoise throne, which thereafter became the throne of the Bahmani kings.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Consider the following pairs of terms related to Bahmani Kingdom:

Term	Meaning
1. Vakil-us-saltana	lieutenant of the kingdom
2. Kotwal	Minister of Finance
3. Wasir-i-ashraf	Chief of Police

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

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

ANS: A

Explanation: In order to facilitate smooth administration, as followed in the Delhi Sultanate, Bahman Shah divided the kingdom into four territorial divisions called tarafs, each under a governor.

Each governor commanded the army of his province (Gulbarga, Daulatabad, Bidar, and Berar) and was solely responsible for both its administration and the collection of revenue.

Mohammed I appointed a council of eight ministers of state:

1. Wakil-us-saltana or lieutenant of the kingdom, the immediate subordinate of the sovereign.
2. Waziri-kull, who 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 who was associated with the lieutenant of the kingdom;
7. Kotwal or chief of police and city magistrate in the capital, and
8. Sadr-i-jahan or chief justice and minister of religious affairs and endowments.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Vijayanagara adopted the emblem of the 'boar or varahaas'. The symbol was earlier an emblem of which of the following kingdom?

- a) Pandayans
- b) Cholas
- c) Chalukyas
- d) Cheras

ANS: C

Explanation: It is now generally accepted, on the basis of contemporary inscriptions, that the two brothers Harihara and Bukka, the eldest sons of one Sangama, earlier serving the Hoysala rulers of Karnataka, asserted their independence and laid foundation for a new kingdom in about 1336.

- Initially the capital was in or near about Anegondi on the north bank of the Tungabhadra river.
- But soon it was shifted to the Hoysala town Hosapattana (near Hampi) on the south bank.
- The capital was expanded and renamed Vijayanagara, the city of Victory. Thereafter, they proclaimed themselves the rulers of Vijayanagara or of Karnata-Vijayanagara.
- Harihara celebrated his coronation in 1346 at this city. Historians call this dynasty started by Harihara as Sangama after the name of his father or forefather.
- Vijayanagara rulers adopted the emblem of the Chalukyas, the boar, or varahaas their royal insignia.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Arrange the following dynasties of Vijayanagara kingdom in chronological order:

1. Saluva
2. Aravidu
3. Sangama

4. Tuluva

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 3 – 2 – 1 – 4
- b) 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
- c) 2 – 1 – 3 – 4
- d) 3 – 1 – 4 – 2

ANS: D

Explanation: The Vijayanagar kingdom was successively ruled by four dynasties over a period of more than three hundred years:

- the Sangama dynasty (1336–1485),
- the Saluva dynasty (1485–1505),
- the Tuluva dynasty (1505–1570) and
- the Aravidu dynasty (1570–1650).

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following pairs of books and authors:

Book	Author
1. Madura-vijayam	Nannayya
2. Shah nama	Firdausi
3. Amuktamalyada	Tikkana

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

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Madura-vijayam, a Sanskrit work written by Kampana's wife, Gangadevi mentions about Kumara Kampana slaying the Madurai Sultan and bringing to an end that Sultanate in about 1370.

- Firdausi wrote Shah Nama which described about Turquoise throne as one of the jewelled royal seats of Persian kings.
- Krishnadevaraya is considered a great scholar and is author of the famous poem Amuktamalyada (the story of Andal).

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) At which of the following given place, Krishnadevaraya planted the pillar of victory?

- a) Indrakiladri
- b) Simhachalam
- c) Srikalahasti
- d) Srisailam

ANS: B

Explanation: Krishnadevaraya had to fight almost continuously on two fronts, one against the traditional enemy, the Bahmani Sultans and the other against the Orissa king Gajapati. There are several inscriptions graphically describing his seizure of many forts like Udayagiri, under the control of Gajapati, during the course of this eastern expedition. Finally, he put a pillar of victory at Simhachalam.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

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Q.8) Which foreign traveler visited the vijayanagara kingdom during the reign of Krishnadevaraya?

- a) Abul Fazal
- b) Fernao Nuniz
- c) Dominigo Paes
- d) Duarte Barbosa

ANS: C

Explanation: Contemporary foreign visitors like Dominigo Paes, Duarte Barbosa and Fernao Nuniz, who visited Vijayanagar left glowing tributes to Krishnadevaraya personality, and the grandeur and opulence of the city.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) Consider the following terms of Vijayanagara Kingdom:

Term	Meaning
1. Pettai	Commercial Centres
2. Adaippam	Accountant
3. Kariya-karta	Executive Agent

Which of the above given pair is/are NOT correctly matched?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: The king was the ultimate authority in the kingdom. He was also the supreme commander of the army.

- He was assisted by several high-ranking officers. The chief minister was known as the mahapradhani.
- He led a number of lower-ranking officers, like Dalavay (commander), Vassal (guard of the palace), Rayasam (secretary/ accountant), Adaippam (personal attendant), and Kariya-karta (executive agents).
- As Harihara I and his immediate successors consolidated their territorial acquisitions, they tried to organize the territory by creating administrative divisions called rajyas or provinces each under a governor called pradhani.
- Chiefs controlled production within their Nayaktanam territories by creating commercial centres (pettai) and markets, by encouraging settlement of cultivators and artisans with tax concessions, by creating and maintaining irrigation facilities, etc.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) Which of the following dynasty constructed the Golkonda fort?

- a) Kakatiya Dynasty
- b) Nizam Kingdom
- c) Vijayanagara
- d) Chalukyas

ANS: A

Explanation: The Raja Krishna Dev of the Kakatiya dynasty with Warangal as capital constructed the Golkonda Fort on a granite hill. During 1495–1496 the fort was handed over to Sultan Kali Kutub Khan as a Jagir (land grant).

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- He reconstructed and rechristened the mud fort into a granite fort and called the place Muhammed Nagar.
- Later, the Golkonda fort came into the possession of the Bahmani dynasty. Still later, the Qutub Shahi dynasty took over and made Golkonda its capital. Golkonda fort owes much of its present grandeur to Mohammad Quli Qutub Shah, the fifth sultan of Qutb Shahi dynasty.
- The subsequent generations saw Golkonda being fortified further with several additions and the formation of a beautiful city within.
- By the 17th century, Golkonda was famous as a diamond market. It gave the world some of the best-known diamonds, including the 'Kohinoor'.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

ForumIAS

History

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Gun powder was first invented by the Chinese.
2. In India we have no instances of artillery being used in war before Balban.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Artillery is an army unit that uses large cannon-like weapons, transportable and usually operated by more than one person.

- Gun powder was first invented by the Chinese and found its way to Europe in the 13th century A.D. (CE).
- It was used in guns and cannons from the mid-fourteenth century onwards. In India we have no instances of artillery being used in war before Babur.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Arrange the following battles fought by Babur in chronological order:

1. Battle of Chanderi
2. Battle of Panipat
3. Battle of Khanwa

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 - 2 - 3
- b) 2 - 3 - 1
- c) 2 - 1 - 3
- d) 1 - 3 - 2

ANS: B

Explanation: First Battle of Panipat, 21 April 1526: Babur then turned towards the Lodi governed Punjab. After several invasions, he defeated the formidable forces of Ibrahim Lodi with a numerically inferior army at Panipat. Babur won this battle with the help of strategic positioning of his forces and the effective use of artillery.

- Battle of Khanwa, 1527: Babur decided to take on Rana Sanga of Chittor, who as ruler of Mewar, had a strong influence over Rajasthan and Malwa. Babur selected Khanwa, near Agra, as a favourable site for this inevitable encounter.
- Battle of Chanderi, 1528: The next significant battle that ensured Babur's supremacy over the Malwa region was fought against Medini Rai at Chanderi. Following this victory Babur turned towards the growing rebellious activities of Afghans.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Who among the following the guardian and protector of Akbar, who helped Akbar to take control of Delhi and Agra?

- a) Abdur Rahim
- b) Bahmani Shah
- c) Bairam Khan

d) Mansingh

ANS: C

Explanation: During Humayun's wanderings in the Rajputana desert, his wife gave birth to a son, Jalaluddin, known as Akbar, in 1542.

- Akbar was crowned at the age of fourteen.
- At the time of Akbar's ascension, the Afghans and Rajputs were still powerful and posed a great challenge.
- Yet he had a guardian and protector in Bairam Khan.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Consider the following statements about Mansabdari system:

1. In Mansabdari system, ranks were divided into zat and sawar.
2. Zat determined the number of soldiers each Mansabdar received ranging from 1000 to 10,000.
3. Sawar determined the number of horses under a Mansabdar.

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Akbar provided a systematic and centralised system of administration which contributed to the success of the empire. He introduced the Mansabdari system.

- The nobles, civil and military officials combined into one single service with each officer receiving the title of Mansabdar. Mansabdar rank was divided into Zat and Sawar.
- The former determined the number of soldiers each Mansabdar received ranging from 10 to 10,000. The latter determined the number of horses under a Mansabdar.
- Each officer could rise from the lowest to the highest ranks. Promotions and demotions were made through additions or reductions of Mansabs.
- The Mansabdari system diversified the ethnic base of his nobility.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. The salary of Mansabdar was fixed and paid in both cash and gold.
2. The rank of Mansabdar was not hereditary in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: During Akbar's early years the nobles were drawn exclusively from Central Asians or Persians.

- But after the introduction of the Mansabdari system, the nobility encompassed Rajputs and Shaikhzadas (Indian Muslims).

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- The salary of a Mansabdar was fixed in cash but was paid by assigning him a jagir (an estate from which he could collect money in lieu of his salary), which was subjected to regular transfers.
- The rank of Mansabdar was not hereditary and immediately after the death of a Mansabdar, the jagir was resumed by the state.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following statements about Akbar's Religious policy:

1. Ibadat Khana, a hall of worship was established by Akbar and it was discontinued during Shah Jahan reign.
2. Akbar propagated a philosophy of Sulh-i-Kul (peace to all).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Akbar began his life as an orthodox Muslim but adopted an accommodative approach under the influence of Sufism.

- Akbar was interested to learn about the doctrines of all religions, and propagated a philosophy of Sulh-i-Kul (peace to all).
- Badauni, a contemporary author, who did not like Akbar's inter-religious interests, accused him of forsaking Islam.
- Akbar had established an Ibadat Khana, a hall of worship in which initially Muslim clerics gathered to discuss spiritual issues.
- Later he invited Christians, Zoroastrians, Hindus, Jains and even atheists to discussions.
- In 1582, he discontinued the debates in the Ibadat Khana as it led to bitterness among different religions. However, he did not give up his attempt to know the Truth.
- Akbar discussed personally with the leading lights of different religions like Purushotam and Devi (Hinduism), Meherji Rana (Zoroastrianism), the Portuguese Aquaviva and Monserrate (Christianity) and Hira Vijaya Suri (Jainism) to ascertain the Truth.
- Because of the discussions he felt that behind the multiplicity of names there was but one God.
- The exact word used by Akbar and Badauni to illustrate the philosophy of Akbar is Tauhid-i-Ilahi namely Din Ilahi. Tauhid-i-Ilahi literally meant divine monotheism.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) The fiscal administration of Akbar has been largely based on the methods of which of the following ruler?

- a) Muhammad Bin Tughlaq
- b) Humayaun
- c) Sher Shah
- d) Alaud-Din Khalji

ANS: C

Explanation: The fiscal administration for which Akbar and Todar Mal have been so highly praised was largely based on the methods of Sher Shah.

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- During his short rule, Sher Shah did not have much time for building new cities and palaces.
- He started building a new walled city in Delhi, which later came to be known as Purana Qila (Old Fort). He built his own mausoleum in Sasaram.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Who among the following executed the Sikh Guru Arjun Dev for helping Prince Khusrau in ascension of the throne?

- a) Aurangzeb
- b) Akbar
- c) Jahangir
- d) Shah Alam

ANS: C

Explanation: Akbar was succeeded by his son Salim with the title Nur-ud-din Jahangir. He was Akbar's son by a Rajput wife.

- His ascension was challenged by his eldest son Prince Khusrau who staged a revolt with the blessings of Sikh Guru Arjun Dev.
- Prince Khusrau was defeated, captured and blinded, while Guru Arjun Dev was executed. Jahangir also tamed the rebel Afghan Usman Khan in Bengal.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) The foreign travelers like Bernier, Tavernier and Peter Mundy visited India during whose reign?

- a) Babar
- b) Shah Jahan
- c) Aurangzeb
- d) Shah Alam

ANS: B

Explanation: A contemporary of Louis XIV of France, Shah Jahan ruled for thirty years. In his reign the famous Peacock Throne was made for the King.

He built the Taj Mahal by the side of the Yamuna at Agra. Europeans like Bernier (French physician and traveller), Tavernier (French gem merchant and traveller), Mandelslo (German adventurer and traveller), Peter Mundy (English Trader) and Manucci (Italian writer and traveller) visited India during the reign of Shah Jahan and left behind detailed accounts of India.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) Who among the following translated the Upanishads from Sanskrit to Persian?

- a) Prince Khusrau
- b) Shah Jahan
- c) Dara Shukoh
- d) Murad

ANS: C

Explanation: During the last days of Shah Jahan, there was a contest for the throne amongst his four sons.

- Dara Shukoh, the eldest, was the favourite of his father. He had been nominated as heir apparent, a fact resented by his brothers.

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- Dara Shukoh, who lost the battle for the throne of Delhi to his brother Aurangzeb, was known as the Philosopher Prince.
 - He brought different cultures into dialogue and found a close connection between Hinduism and Islam. He translated the Upanishads from Sanskrit to Persian.
- Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

ForumIAS

History

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Persian wheel was introduced in India by Akbar.
2. Akbar popularized the device of cooling water using saltpeter.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The method of water-lift based on pin-drum gearing known as Persian wheel had been introduced during Babur's time.

- A complicated system of water lift by a series of gear-wheels had been installed in Fatehpur Sikri.
- Akbar was also credited with popularizing the device of cooling water using saltpetre.
- In metallurgy, the inability to produce cast iron remained an obvious drawback.
- As Irfan Habib observed, 'India's backwardness in technology was obvious when the matchlock remained the most common weapon in Indian armies. In Europe the flintlock had long come into use.
- Indians continued to use the expensive bronze cannon, long after these had become obsolete in Europe.
- This was because of India's inability to make cast iron even in the seventeenth century.'

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Who among the following was the first known person in the world to have devised the 'Ship's camel'?

- a) Akbar
- b) Ashoka
- c) Allauddin Khilji
- d) Krishnadevaraya

ANS: A

Explanation: Akbar is also the first known person in the world to have devised the 'ship's camel', a barge on which the ship is built to make it easier for the ship to be carried to the sea.

Some mechanical devices like the screw for tightening, manually driven belt-drill for cutting diamonds were in use.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Agra Fort was built with red sandstone.
2. The magnificent gateway to Fatehpur Sikri, the Buland Darwaza was built with Marble and red sandstone.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: During Akbar's reign, Humayun's tomb was enclosed with gardens and placed on a raised platform.

- Built by Indian artisans and designed by Persian architects it set a pattern to be followed in the future.
- The Agra fort built with red sandstone is a specimen where Rajput architectural styles were also incorporated.
- The new capital city of Akbar Fatehpur Sikri enclosed within its walls several inspiring buildings.
- The magnificent gateway to Fatehpur Sikri, the Buland Darwaza, built by Akbar with red sandstone and marble is considered to be a perfect architectural achievement.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Which structure among the following was the first Mughal building built completely with white marble?

- a) Taj Mahal
- b) Fatehpuri Sikri
- c) Tomb of Itimad-ud-daula
- d) Golden Temple

ANS: C

Explanation: The tomb of Itimad-ud-daula, father of Nurjahan, built by Jahangir was the first Mughal building built completely with white marble.

- Mughal architecture reached its apex during the reign of Shah Jahan.
- The Taj Mahal is a marble structure on an elevated platform, the bulbous dome in the centre rising on a recessed gateway with four cupolas around the dome and with four free-standing minarets at each of its corners is a monument of universal fame.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Mughal Architecture had influence on temple architecture in India.
2. The Shalimar Gardens are showpiece of Indian horticulture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Shalimar Gardens of Jahangir and Shah Jahan are showpieces of Indian horticulture.

- Apart from the many massive structures, the Mughals contributed many civil works of public utility, the greatest of them being the bridge over the Gomati river at Jaunpur.
- The most impressive feat is the West Yamuna Canal which provided water to Delhi.

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- Mughal architecture influenced even temple construction in different parts of the country.
- The temple of Govind Dev at Vrindavan near Mathura and Bir Singh's temple of Chaturbhuj at Orchha (Madhya Pradesh) display Mughal influence.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Which of the following Mughal structure has the Buddhist architectural elements?

- a) Tajmahal
- b) Mausoleum of Akbar
- c) Panch Mahal
- d) Red fort

ANS: B

Explanation: Architectural progress during the Mughals is a landmark in world art.

- Mughal buildings were noted for the massive structures decorated with bulbous domes, splendid minarets, cupolas in the four corners, elaborate designs, and pietra dura (pictorial mosaic work).
- The mosques built during the time of Babur and Humayun are not of much architectural significance.
- The mausoleum of Akbar at Sikandra near Agra started by Akbar and completed by Jahangir includes some Buddhist architectural elements.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Consider the following pairs of Authors and their known work of translating scripts into Persian:

Author	Known for translating
1. Abul Faizi	Lilavati
2. Abul Fazal	Mahabharata
3. Abdur Rahim Khan-e-khanan	Babur's Autobiography

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

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Babur's autobiography written in Chaghatai Turkish was translated into Persian by Abdur Rahim Khan-e-Khanan.

- Dabistan is an impartial account of the beliefs and works of different religions. Persian literature was enriched by translations of Sanskrit works.
- The Mahabharata was translated under the supervision of Abul Faizi, brother of Abul Fazal and a court poet of Akbar.
- The translation of Upanishads by Dara Shukoh, entitled Surr-I-Akbar (the Great Secret), is a landmark.
- The Masnawis of Abul Faizi, Utbi and Naziri enriched Persian Poetry in India.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Consider the following authors and their works:

Author	Work
1. Abul Fazal	Ain-i-Akbari
2. Abdul Hamid Lahori	Akbar Nama

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3. Muhammad Kazim Alamgir Nama
Which of the above given pair is/are correctly matched?
- 2 and 3 only
 - 1 and 2 only
 - 1 and 3 only
 - 1, 2 and 3 only

ANS: C

Explanation: Persian, Sanskrit and regional languages developed during the Mughal rule.

- Persian was the language of administration in Mughal Empire and the Deccan states.
- It influenced even the Rajput states where Persian words were used in administration.
- Abul Fazal patronised by Akbar compiled the history of Akbar in Akbar Nama and described Mughal administration in his work Ain-i-Akbari.
- The Ain-i-Akbari is commendable for its interest in science, statistics, geography and culture.
- Akbar Nama was emulated by Abdul Hamid Lahori and Muhammad Waris in their joint work Padshah Nama, a biography of Shah Jahan.
- Later Muhammad Kazim in his Alamgir Nama, a work on the reign of the first decade of Aurangzeb, followed the same pattern.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

- Q.9)** Among the following, whose verses are used in Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of Sikhs?
- Moinuddin Chishti
 - Shaikh Farid
 - Muhammad Nizamuddin Auliya
 - Mahbub-e-Ilahi

ANS: B

Explanation: The Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of the Sikhs compiled by Guru Arjun in which the verses of the Sikh Gurus as well as Shaikh Farid and other monotheists are a landmark in the evolution of Punjabi language.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

- Q.10)** Consider the following pair of person and their occupation during Mughal period:

Person	Occupation
1. Nilakantha	Physician
2. Basawan	Poet
3. Tansen	Musician

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

- 3 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3 only

ANS: A

Explanation: The Mughals achieved international recognition in the field of painting. Mughal miniatures are an important part of the museums of the world.

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- The Persian text of Mahabharata and Akbar Namah were illustrated with paintings by various painters. Daswant and Basawan were famous painters of Akbar's court.
- According to Ain-i-Akbari, Tansen of Gwalior, credited with composing of many ragas, was patronised by Akbar along with 35 other musicians.
- Jahangir and Shah Jahan were patrons of music. Though there is a popular misconception that Aurangzeb was against music, a large number of books on Indian classical music were written during his regime.
- The Sanskrit works produced during the Mughal rule are impressive. Sanskrit literature of this period is noted for the kavyas and historical poetry.
- Rajavalipataka, a kavya, written by Prajna bhatta which completed the history of Kashmir belonged to reign of Akbar.
- Graeco-Arabic learning was transmitted to India through Persian works in the form of Sanskrit translations.
- Akbar's astronomer Nilakantha wrote the Tajika Neelakanthi, an astrological treatise.
- Shah Jahan's court poet Jaganatha Panditha wrote the monumental Rasagangadhara.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Maratha Administration under Peshwas:

1. Deshmukhs and Deshpandes were in-charge of accounts.
2. The Accountant or the record keeper is called as patel.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Provinces under the Peshwas were of various sizes. Larger provinces were under the provincial governors called Sar-subahdars. The divisions in the provinces were termed Subahs and Pranths.

- Deshmukhs and Deshpandes were district officers who were in charge of accounts and were to observe the activities of Mamlatdars and Kamavistars. It was a system of checks and balances.
- The village was the basic unit of administration and was self-supportive.
- The Patel was the chief village officer and was responsible for remitting revenue collections to the centre.
- He was not paid by the government. His post was hereditary. The Patel was helped by the Kulkarni or accountant and record-keeper.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.2) Who among the following was well known practitioner of western science and medicine; and also establishment of printing press for Marathi and Sanskrit?

- a) Bajji Rao I
- b) Serfoji II
- c) Raghunath Rao
- d) Balaji Bajji Rao

ANS: B

Explanation: Serfoji II was a remarkable ruler. He was educated by the German Christian missionary Friedrich Schwartz, Serfoji.

- Similarly Serfoji II turned out to be a well-known practitioner of Western science and medicine. Yet he was a devoted keeper of Indian traditions.
- He mastered several European languages and had an impressive library of books in every branch of learning.
- Serfoji's modernising projects included the establishment of a printing press (the first press for Marathi and Sanskrit) and enrichment of the Saraswati Mahal Library.
- His most innovative project, however, was the establishment of free modern public schools run by his court, for instruction in English and the vernacular languages.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

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Q.3) Consider the following statements about the last ruler of the Bhonsle dynasty of the Maratha principality of Thanjavur:

1. Serfoji II established Dhanvantari Mahal, a research institute that produced western medicine for humans and animals.
2. Serfoji authored Devendra Kuravanji and mudrarakshaschaya.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Serfoji II established Dhanvantari Mahal, a research institution that produced herbal medicine for humans and animals. Maintaining case-sheets of patients was introduced.

- Physicians of modern medicine, Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha schools undertook research on drugs and herbs for medical cure. They produced eighteen volumes of research material.
- Serfoji II was a patron of traditional Indian arts like dance and music. He authored Kumarasambhava Champu, Devendra Kuravanji, and Mudra rakshaschaya.
- He introduced western musical instruments like clarinet, and violin in Carnatic music. He is also credited with popularising the unique Thanjavur style of painting.
- Serfoji was interested in painting, gardening, coin-collecting, martial arts and patronized chariot-racing, hunting and bull-fighting.
- He created the first zoological garden in Tamilnadu in the Thanjavur palace premises.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Elizabeth who was contemporary to Akbar ruled England.
2. Abbas the Great was ruler of Persia is a contemporary of Shah Jahan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Akbar's period, 1556 to 1605, was the period of great rulers. His nearest contemporary was Elizabeth of England. Shakespeare was living around this time.

- Henry IV of France, first ruler of the Bourbon dynasty, and Abbas the Great of Persia, the strongest ruler of the Safavid dynasty, were ruling their kingdoms during his period.
- The revolt of the Netherlands against Spanish rule in Europe that commenced during this period lasted for about eighty years and ended in 1648.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.5) At which of the following place, the Dasakuta Movement popularised by Vyasarayya took ground?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Andhra Pradesh

- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Himachal Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: Some of the major religious figures like Vallabhacharya and his son Vitthalnath propagated a religion of grace; and Surdas, an adherent to this sect, wrote Sur-Saravali in the local language. Eknath and Tukaram were Bhakti poets from Maharashtra. The Dasakuta movement, a bhakti movement in Karnataka, popularised by Vyasaraaya, turned out to be a lower class movement.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.6) Consider the following statements about the trade and commerce during Mughals:

1. Banjaras were specialized traders who carried goods in large bulks over long distances.
2. The movement of goods was facilitated by letters of credit called hundi system.
3. The network of sarais enabled the traders and merchants to travel to various places.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The political integration of the country with efficient maintenance of law and order ensured brisk trade and commerce.

- The surplus was carried to different parts of the country through rivers, and through the roads on ox and camel drawn carts.
- Banjaras were specialised traders who carried goods in a large bulk over long distances. Bengal was the chief exporting centre of rice, sugar, muslin, silk and food grains.
- The Coromandel Coast was reputed for its textile production. Kashmiri shawls and carpets were distributed from Lahore which was an important centre of handicraft production.
- The movement of goods was facilitated by letters of credit called hundi. The network of sarais enabled the traders and merchants to travel to various places.
- The traders came from all religious communities: Hindus, Muslims and Jains. The Bohra Muslims of Gujarat, Marwaris of Rajasthan, Chettiars on Coromandel coast, and Muslims of Malabar were prominent trading communities.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.7) Which among the following battle was fought by Akbar?

- a) Battle of Panipat I
- b) Battle of Agra
- c) Battle of Haldighati
- d) Battle of Khanwa

ANS: C

Explanation: Mewar and Marwar were the two Rajput kingdoms that defied the Mughal Empire.

- After the death of Rana Udai Singh, his son Rana Pratap Singh refused to acknowledge Akbar's suzerainty and continued to fight the Mughals till his death in 1597.

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- The Battle of Haldighati in 1576 was the last pitched battle between the Mughal forces and Rana Pratap Singh.
- In Marwar (Jodhpur), the ruler Chandra Sen, son of Maldeo Rathore, resisted the Mughals till his death in 1581, though his brothers fought on the side of the Mughals.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.8) Who among the following lived at the court of Akbar?

- a) Sur Das
- b) Kalidas
- c) Vallabacharya
- d) Chaitanya

ANS: A

Explanation: 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 who was a Vaishnava preacher in the Sultanate period.

- Vallabhacharya was the founder of Pushtimarga (way of grace). Sur Das preached religion of love and devotion to a personal God.
- He wrote inspiring and moving poems, Hindi poems about Lord Krishna. Krishna's bal lila constitutes the first great theme of Sur Das poetry.
- According to him, love is a sublimated theme representing the irresistible attraction of the gopis of Brindavan towards Krishna.
- The intensity of passion displayed by the gopis is an expression of the natural attraction of the human spirit towards the divine soul.
- His popular works are Sur Sagar, Sur Saravali and Sahitya Lehari. His monumental work Sur Sagar or Sur's Ocean is a story of Lord Krishna from the birth to the departure for Mathura.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.9) What is the term used for gold coins in Tamil during Vijayanagara Kingdom?

- a) Pon
- b) Kolar
- c) Varaha
- d) Pasa

ANS: A

Explanation: The Vijayanagara kings issued a large number of gold coins called Varaha (also called Pon in Tamil and Honnu in Kannada).

- These gold coins have the images of various Hindu deities and animals like the bull, the elephant and the fabulous gandaberunda (a double eagle, sometimes holding an elephant in each beak and claw).
- The legend contains the king's name either in Nagari or in Kannada script.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

Q.10) Which kingdom among the following is known to have built the Khajuraho Temple?

- a) Solankis
- b) Chandelas
- c) Hoyasalas
- d) Cholas

ANS: B

Explanation: The world famous Khajuraho temple complex consisting of many temples including the Lakshmana temple, Vishwanatha temple and Kandariya Mahadeva temple was built by the Chandelas of Bundelkhand who ruled from Khajuraho.

Source: Tamil Nadu state board.

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