

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Provincial Kingdoms & Early Mughals (Babur)

1. With reference to the Architectural Legacy of the Sharqi Kingdom of Jaunpur, consider the following statements:

1. The architecture is characterized by its own distinct Sharqi style, notably featuring massive sloping walls and the complete absence of minarets.
2. The unique design element of a huge Propylon (screen or gateway) masking the main dome is a hallmark of the Jaunpur mosques, such as the Atala Masjid.
3. The architectural style of Jaunpur is considered a derivative of the Tughlaq architecture, maintaining the Tughlaq emphasis on simplicity and massiveness.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Sharqi style is marked by its imposing size, strong emphasis on a closed screen, and the deliberate omission of minarets.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The use of a grand **Propylon**—a massive ornamental pylon/screen covering the facade of the prayer hall—is the most distinctive feature of the Sharqi style, seen in the Atala Masjid.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Sharqi architectural style evolved from the late **Tughlaq** style of Delhi, inheriting its features of massiveness and austerity, before developing its own regional character.

2. Consider the following pairs of Sharqi rulers of Jaunpur and their contributions:

Ruler	Contribution/Association
1. Malik Sarwar	Took the title Sultanu-Sharq (Master of the East) and established the independent kingdom.
2. Ibrahim Shah Sharqi	The golden age of Jaunpur, known as the 'Shiraz of the East' for its patronage of arts and learning.
3. Hussain Shah Sharqi	The ruler who was defeated and whose kingdom was annexed by Sikandar Lodi.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** **Malik Sarwar** was the founder and first independent ruler, originally a noble under Firoz Shah Tughlaq.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** The reign of **Ibrahim Shah Sharqi** is widely considered the peak of Jaunpur's cultural and architectural achievement, earning it the epithet 'Shiraz of the East'.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** **Hussain Shah Sharqi** was the last independent ruler. He was defeated by **Sikandar Lodi**, who annexed Jaunpur back into the Delhi Sultanate in 1479 CE.

3. Consider the following rulers of the Bengal Sultanate and their historical associations:

Ruler	Contribution/Association
1. Ilyas Shah	Successfully resisted the invasion of Firoz Shah Tughlaq and was the first ruler of the independent dynasty.
2. Ghiyasuddin Azam Shah	Known for establishing direct diplomatic and commercial relations with the Chinese Empire.
3. Allauddin Hussain Shah	Initiated a policy of promoting Bengali language and literature, leading to a cultural renaissance.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah (c. 1342 CE) consolidated the independent Bengal Sultanate and his successful resistance against Firoz Shah Tughlaq was crucial for its survival.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** Ghiyasuddin Azam Shah was noted for his diplomatic exchange with the Yongle Emperor of China and also for his judicial fairness.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** Allauddin Hussain Shah (c. 1493–1519 CE) is considered the greatest ruler of the dynasty, known for his cultural tolerance and immense patronage of Bengali literature.

4. Match the following dynasties/rulers of the Provincial Kingdom of Orissa (Gajapati Empire) with their contribution:

Dynasty/Ruler	Contribution/Association
1. Eastern Ganga Dynasty	Built the famous Sun Temple at Konark.
2. Kapilendra Deva	Founder of the Gajapati Dynasty and significantly expanded the kingdom up to the Krishna River.
3. Purushottama Deva	Successfully recovered territories lost to the Vijayanagar Empire and the Bahmani Sultanate.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** The Konark Temple was built by Narasimha Deva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty (13th Century).
- **Pair 2: Correct.** Kapilendra Deva (c. 1435 CE) founded the Gajapati Dynasty and was responsible for its greatest territorial expansion.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** Purushottama Deva, Kapilendra's son, faced setbacks but eventually managed to recover significant territory, especially the Telugu region, from the Vijayanagar and Bahmani states.

5. Consider the following rulers associated with the Ahom Kingdom of Assam and their historical significance:

Ruler	Significance/Contribution
1. Sukapha	Founder of the Ahom Kingdom in the Brahmaputra Valley in the 13th century.
2. Rudra Singha	The king who constructed the iconic Kamakhya Temple.
3. Gadadhar Singha	Introduced revenue reforms based on systematic land measurement and survey.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Sukapha was the founder of the Ahom Kingdom, migrating from the Shan kingdom in the 13th century.
- **Pair 2: Incorrect.** The iconic Kamakhya Temple was rebuilt by Nara Narayana, the ruler of the Koch Dynasty, not by Rudra Singha of the Ahom Dynasty. Rudra Singha is famous for building the Shiva Dol at Sivasagar.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** Gadadhar Singha (c. 1681–1696 CE) initiated comprehensive land surveys and revenue settlements based on measurement, a key administrative reform.

6. Match the following figures/regions with their role in the early life and struggles of Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur:

Figure/Region	Role in Babur's Early Career
1. Shaybani Khan	The Uzbek chief who repeatedly defeated Babur and drove him out of Transoxiana.
2. Farghana	Babur's original homeland, which he lost and regained multiple times in his youth.
3. Shah Ismail Safavi	The Persian ruler whose aid Babur temporarily secured to regain Samarqand.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Shaybani Khan was the powerful Uzbek leader of the Shaibanids who was Babur's chief adversary in Central Asia, leading to Babur's ultimate abandonment of Samarqand and Transoxiana.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** Farghana (a small principality near Samarqand) was Babur's ancestral patrimony and the first territory he struggled to secure after his father's death.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** Babur formed a crucial but short-lived alliance with Shah Ismail Safavi of Persia (Iran) to recapture Samarqand, but the alliance alienated his Sunni subjects and soon collapsed.

7. Which of the following statements about the timeline of Babur's career is/are correct?

1. Babur first acquired the kingdom of Kabul after his final unsuccessful attempt to capture Samarqand.
2. Babur began his systematic raids into India from his base in Kabul only after the final defeat of the Lodis in 1526 CE.
3. Babur adopted the title Padshah (Emperor) upon his occupation of Kabul, years before his conquest of Delhi.

Select the correct code:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** After being driven out of his ancestral home, Babur moved south and conquered **Kabul in 1504 CE**, which became his base for operations in India.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** Babur carried out several preliminary raids into India, notably in **1519-1524 CE**, targeting the border regions like Bhira and Punjab, long before the Battle of Panipat (1526 CE).
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Babur assumed the title **Padshah** in 1507 CE, shortly after consolidating his position in Kabul, establishing a claim to imperial status independent of Central Asian traditions.

8. Arrange the following battles fought by Babur in the Indian subcontinent in the correct chronological order (earliest to latest):

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

Select the correct chronological sequence:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation: The famous four battles of Babur's Indian campaign:

1. **Battle of Panipat (1526 CE):** Against Ibrahim Lodi.
2. **Battle of Khanwa (1527 CE):** Against Rana Sanga of Mewar.
3. **Battle of Chanderi (1528 CE):** Against Medini Rai (Rajputs).
4. **Battle of Ghagra (1529 CE):** Against the combined Afghans (Lodis and others).

9. Which of the following statements correctly reflect the significance of Babur's advent into India?

1. It permanently ended the Lodis' rule and brought an end to the Delhi Sultanate era, fundamentally altering the political landscape.
2. It introduced the use of gunpowder, artillery, and the effective **Tulguma** military tactic into North Indian warfare for the first time.
3. It led to the political unification of North India under a powerful centralized administration, quickly stabilizing the region.

4. It broke the balance of power in the region, which forced the regional kingdoms of Rajasthan and Malwa to ally against the new foreign threat.

Select the correct code:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Babur's victory at Panipat (1526 CE) established the Mughal Empire, ending the Delhi Sultanate's lineage.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Babur's use of **gunpowder artillery** and the encircling **Tulguma** tactic (learnt from the Uzbeks) provided a crucial military edge.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** Political unification and stable centralized administration were achieved later, mainly under **Akbar**. Babur's reign was largely spent fighting and was politically fragile.
- **Statement 4: Correct.** The advent of a new, powerful foreign dynasty did disturb the regional balance of power, leading to the formation of a broad alliance of Rajputs under Rana Sanga at the Battle of Khanwa.

10. With reference to Babur's cultural and religious contribution, consider the following statements:

1. Babur was a committed Sunni Muslim but strictly followed a policy of religious tolerance towards his non-Muslim subjects in India.
2. His autobiography, Tuzuk-i-Baburi, was written in Persian, and it serves as a valuable source of information on Indian flora and fauna.
3. He introduced the Charbagh style of gardening to India, characterized by four symmetric sections divided by walkways or flowing water.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** While Babur was generally a cultured and observant Muslim, he did not maintain strict religious tolerance. He declared the **Battle of Khanwa** against Rana Sanga a Jihad and assumed the title of Ghazi.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** His autobiography, **Tuzuk-i-Baburi** (or Baburnama), was written in his native **Chagatai Turkish** language, not Persian. It was later translated into Persian by Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khana.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Babur is credited with introducing the Persian-style **Charbagh** (Four Gardens) layout, characterized by symmetry and geometrical division, to India, setting a precedent for Mughal garden architecture.

Humayun and Sher Shah Suri

1. With reference to the challenges faced by Humayun after his accession, consider the following statements:

1. Humayun's policy of granting large Jagirs to his younger brothers weakened the central administration from the outset by partitioning the empire.
2. The Afghan threat, particularly under Sher Khan Suri in Bihar and Bengal, was the primary external military challenge Humayun failed to address adequately.
3. The rise of Bahadur Shah of Gujarat, who maintained friendly relations with the Portuguese and posed a threat to Malwa, was a significant problem for Humayun.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** While Humayun's brothers were a major problem, the problem was his father **Babur's legacy** of dividing the empire among his sons, leading to the brothers' disloyalty and subsequent lack of cooperation, rather than Humayun's grant of "large Jagirs." He granted them provinces like Kabul and Kandahar (**Kambaran**) and Sambhal (**Askari**), which was a much more serious partitioning than mere jagirs.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Sher Khan Suri's consolidation of power in the east proved to be the most devastating long-term threat to Humayun.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Bahadur Shah of Gujarat was a formidable rival who threatened the Mughal hold over Malwa and even besieged Chittor, forcing Humayun to intervene personally.

2. With reference to the Battle of Chausa (1539 CE), which led to Sher Khan's ascendancy, consider the following statements:

1. The battle was precipitated by Humayun's prolonged but strategically hollow occupation of Gaur (Bengal), leaving his lines of communication vulnerable.
2. Sher Khan utilized the beginning of the monsoon season and a sudden attack to defeat the complacent Mughal army, forcing Humayun to flee across the Ganga river.
3. Following the victory, Sher Khan adopted the imperial title Sher Shah and issued coins in his own name, marking the formal end of the Mughal rule in the East.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Humayun's overextended campaign in Bengal without securing his rear (Bihar) allowed Sher Khan to cut off his supply lines.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The timing of the attack (the monsoon rains) and the ensuing chaos in the Mughal camp led to Humayun's humiliating retreat, where he nearly drowned in the Ganga.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The victory at Chausa was so decisive that Sher Khan immediately assumed the imperial title **Sher Shah**, solidifying his claim over the erstwhile Mughal territory.

3. Which of the following statements about Humayun's life after the loss of India is/are correct?

1. The Battle of Bilgram (1540 CE) resulted in Humayun's complete defeat, making him a fugitive and leading to the beginning of the Afghan Interregnum.
2. During his fifteen-year exile, Humayun sought refuge with the Safavid Shah of Persia, who provided him with military aid to recapture Kandahar and Kabul.
3. Humayun recaptured Delhi in 1555 CE following the decisive defeat of the Sur claimant Sikandar Shah Suri at the Battle of Machhiwara.

Select the correct code:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Battle of Bilgram (or Kannauj) was the final nail in the coffin, forcing Humayun out of India.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Shah Tahmasp I of the Safavid Empire provided Humayun with military support in exchange for a promise to convert to the Shia faith and cede Kandahar to Persia.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** While Sikandar Shah Suri was the Sur claimant defeated by Humayun's forces in 1555 CE, the **Battle of Machhiwara** was fought earlier against **Nasib Khan**, while the **Battle of Sirhind** was the decisive battle in 1555 CE where Humayun's forces, led by Bairam Khan, defeated Sikandar Shah Suri.

4. Consider the following pairs related to the architectural contributions of the early Mughal period (Humayun and Sher Shah):

Structure	Ruler / Architectural Feature
1. Din-i-Panah	The city of refuge founded by Humayun, which served as his second capital.
2. Sher Shah Suri's Tomb	Built in an octagonal plan on a high platform amidst a lake, blending Persian and indigenous styles.
3. Qila-i-Kuhna Masjid	Built by Sher Shah, known for its recessed arch and the earliest example of the true double-dome in India.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** **Din-i-Panah** ('Refuge of the Faith') was the citadel/city founded by Humayun on the banks of the Yamuna (now forming part of Purana Qila).
- **Pair 2: Correct.** **Sher Shah's Tomb** at Sasaram is a masterpiece of Afghan architecture, built in a lake using the octagonal plan and three-tiered design.
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** The **Qila-i-Kuhna Masjid** is known for its exquisite decorations and recessed arch, but the earliest large-scale example of the true **double-dome** is generally attributed to the **Tomb of Humayun** (built later) or earlier structures like the Tomb of Sikandar Lodi. The Qila-i-Kuhna Masjid does not use a true double-dome.

5. With reference to Sher Shah Suri, consider the following statements:

1. Before his imperial accession, he gained vast administrative experience as the Jagirdar of Sasaram in Bihar.
2. He initially served under **Bahadur Shah of Gujarat**, where he learned the use of artillery and military tactics before turning against Humayun.
3. He was a great patron of learning and established the practice of paying stipends to learned men and setting up Madrassas.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Sher Shah (Farid Khan) began his career managing his father's Jagir at Sasaram and Khawaspur-Tanda, where he perfected his revenue and administrative skills.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** Sher Shah initially served under the **Lodis** and later under the **Mughals (Babur)**, and was instrumental in the collapse of the Lodi rule. His main rivals were the Mughals and the Bengal Sultan. He did not serve under Bahadur Shah of Gujarat.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Sher Shah promoted Islamic learning and established institutions like Madrassas and patronized scholars.

6. Consider the following terms associated with Sher Shah's administrative reforms:

Term	Meaning / Role
1. Diwan-i-Wizarat	Central Department responsible for revenue and finance.
2. Diwan-i-Arz	Central Department responsible for the upkeep and muster of the army.
3. Diwan-i-Rasalat	Central Department responsible for foreign affairs and diplomatic correspondence.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation: Sher Shah Suri meticulously revived and improved the Delhi Sultanate's central administrative structure:

- **Pair 1: Correct. Diwan-i-Wizarat** was headed by the Wazir (Prime Minister), dealing with revenue.
- **Pair 2: Correct. Diwan-i-Arz** was headed by the Ariz-i-Mamalik, responsible for the military establishment.
- **Pair 3: Correct. Diwan-i-Rasalat** was headed by the Sadr-us-Sudur (or sometimes a Foreign Minister), dealing with foreign correspondence and religious grants.

7. Match the following administrative units established by Sher Shah with their correct meaning or official:

Unit/Official	Meaning / Jurisdiction
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1. Pargana	The smallest administrative unit, comprising several villages.
2. Shiqdar-i-Shiqdaran	The Chief Executive and Judicial Officer at the Sarkar (District) level.
3. Shiqdar	The main Revenue Collector at the Pargana level.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation: Sher Shah's administration was highly centralized and well-structured:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** The **Pargana** was the basic intermediate administrative unit.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** The **Shiqdar-i-Shiqdaran** was the chief Shiqdar or the head military/judicial officer of the **Sarkar** (district).
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** The **Shiqdar** was the executive officer (law and order) at the Pargana level. The main **Revenue Collector** at the Pargana level was the **Amil** (or Amalguzar).

8. Consider the following reforms introduced by Sher Shah Suri:

Reform	Feature / Characteristic
1. Land Revenue System	Introduction of the Patta (title deed) and Qabuliyat (agreement), formally defining the area and tax liability.
2. Currency Reform	Issuance of a standardized silver coin called the Rupiya, which remained the standard currency for centuries.
3. Land Classification	Classification of cultivable land into three categories: good, middling, and bad, to ensure fair assessment of revenue.

How many of the above reforms are correctly described?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** The use of **Patta** and **Qabuliyat** (system of Peshgi) was a key reform that established a direct link between the state and the cultivator, eliminating intermediaries.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** Sher Shah standardized the currency by issuing a uniform silver coin, the **Rupiya** (178 grains), which became the basis of the modern Indian currency system.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** Sher Shah introduced systematic land measurement (**Zabti** or Jarib system) and classified land into three categories based on fertility to ensure a fair and equitable tax assessment.

9. With reference to Sher Shah's infrastructure and justice reforms, consider the following:

Reform/Term	Feature / Function
1. Sarai	State-maintained rest houses constructed along the major highways for the use of traders, pilgrims, and officials.
2. Waqai-Nawis	The official responsible for ensuring law and order in the villages, often held accountable for local crimes.

3. Grand Trunk Road	The famous highway connecting Sonargaon (Bengal) to the Indus River, built to facilitate trade and rapid military movement.
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How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Sarais (rest houses/inns) were established every 8 km along the roads, serving as trade networks and administrative centers.
- **Pair 2: Incorrect.** The **Waqai-Nawis** was a news writer or reporter, whose role was intelligence and documentation. The village headman (Muqaddam or Chaudhari) was held accountable for local crimes ("Principle of Local Responsibility").
- **Pair 3: Correct.** The **Grand Trunk Road** (rebuilt and expanded by Sher Shah) connected the Bengal border to the Indus, and it was crucial for integrating his empire.

10. Match the following aspects of Sher Shah Suri's governance with their key feature:

Aspect	Key Feature
1. Trade Reforms	Abolition of all transit duties except for two levies, one at the point of entry and one at the point of sale.
2. Military Reorganisation	Introduction of the system of Dagh (branding of horses) and Chehra (descriptive roll of soldiers) to prevent corruption.
3. Judicial Emphasis	The Sultan himself was the highest court of appeal, embodying the principle of Leniency and Clemency in dispensing justice.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Sher Shah abolished numerous local tolls, simplifying the customs system to encourage commerce by levying duty only at the border and at the final sales point.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** Sher Shah revived the rigorous military systems of branding (Dagh) and descriptive rolls (Chehra) first introduced by Alauddin Khalji.
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** While the Sultan was the highest court of appeal, Sher Shah was known for his **strictness and impartiality** in dispensing justice, not necessarily **leniency and clemency**. His policy of "justice knows no kinship" meant severe punishment regardless of status.

Akbar

1. With reference to the regency of Bairam Khan (1556–1560 CE) and the subsequent court turmoil, consider the following statements:

1. Bairam Khan, who held the title Khan Baba, was a loyal Shi'a Muslim whose policies of promoting his co-religionists led to alienation within the predominantly Sunni Turani nobility.

2. The period immediately following Bairam Khan's removal is historically referred to as the 'Petticoat Government' due to the undue political influence of Maham Anga and Adham Khan.
3. Akbar demonstrated magnanimity by allowing Bairam Khan to proceed on a pilgrimage to Mecca, where the former regent passed away peacefully.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Bairam Khan was a Shi'a, and his favor shown toward Shi'a and Irani nobles caused resentment among the powerful Sunni Turani (Central Asian) faction, contributing to his downfall.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The years 1560-1562 CE saw the rise of Maham Anga (Akbar's wet nurse) and her son Adham Khan, who wielded unofficial power, giving the period the historical name 'Pardah' or 'Petticoat' Government (Petticoat Rule).
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** Bairam Khan was **assassinated** in Patan, Gujarat, by a group of Afghans (associated with an old enemy, Hemu) while he was preparing for his pilgrimage to Mecca, not peacefully passing away.

2. Arrange the following early expansionist campaigns undertaken during Akbar's reign in the correct chronological order (earliest to latest):

1. Conquest of Malwa, leading to the defeat of Baz Bahadur.
2. Submission of the Rajput fortress of Chittor.
3. Annexation of the Gondwana kingdom following the resistance of Rani Durgavati.
4. Capture of the Gwalior fort from the Sur claimant.

Select the correct chronological sequence:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation: The correct chronological sequence of these key early campaigns is:

1. **Gwalior** (1559 CE): Captured from the Sur Governor, securing a vital fortress in Central India. (4)
2. **Malwa** (1561 CE): Defeat of Baz Bahadur by Adham Khan. (1)
3. **Gondwana** (1564 CE): Campaign led by Asaf Khan against Rani Durgavati. (3)
4. **Chittor** (1567-68 CE): Siege and capture of the capital of Mewar, one of the most significant Rajput strongholds. (2)

3. Which of the following statements correctly describe the features of Akbar's Rajput Policy?

1. Akbar's policy relied solely on offering high Mansabs and marriage alliances, without requiring the surrender of sovereignty by Rajput rulers.
2. The abolition of the Pilgrim Tax on Hindus (1563 CE) and the Jizya Tax (1564 CE) were key steps to cement the political alliance with the Rajput houses.

3. The Battle of Haldighati (1576 CE), a military confrontation between Rana Pratap and the Mughals, was led on the Mughal side primarily by a Mughal prince.

Select the correct code:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** While Rajput rulers were allowed to retain internal autonomy, their acceptance of Mughal service and sovereignty was mandatory. This acceptance often included the obligation to provide military service when required.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** These two reforms were crucial in integrating the Hindu population and the Rajput nobility into the Mughal framework, showing respect for Hindu sensibilities.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** The Mughal army at Haldighati was commanded by the Rajput general **Raja Man Singh of Amber** (Kachwaha), alongside Asaf Khan, not a Mughal prince.

4. With respect to the integration and legacy of Akbar's Rajput policy, consider the following statements:

1. The induction of Rajput nobles into the Mughal administration helped overcome the early phase of turmoil by diversifying the nobility away from the dominant Turani faction.
2. Akbar's policy was completely successful in Rajasthan, resulting in the submission of all major Rajput states, including the final annexation of Mewar.
3. The policy ensured that Rajput rulers maintained internal autonomy and control over their hereditary territories (Watan Jagirs), which were not transferable.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The Rajputs formed a powerful counterpoise to the Turani and Irani factions, lending stability and an indigenous base to the Mughal Empire.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** **Mewar** (under Rana Pratap and his successor Amar Singh) never fully submitted to Akbar. Although defeated in battle, Rana Pratap continued his resistance until his death, and a formal peace treaty was only signed later, during Jahangir's reign.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The maintenance of **Watan Jagirs** (hereditary lands) as non-transferable grants was the cornerstone of the Mughal-Rajput alliance, assuring the Rajputs of their ancestral land rights.

5. Consider the following pairs of famous architectural structures:

Monument	Location / Builder
1. Buland Darwaza	Fatehpur Sikri / Commemorates Akbar's victory over Gujarat.
2. Bara Imambara	Lucknow / Built by Asaf-ud-Daula in the late 18th century.

3. Rumi Darwaza	Delhi / Built by Akbar as the grand entrance to the city of Din-i-Panah.
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How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Buland Darwaza (The Lofty Gate) was built by Akbar at Fatehpur Sikri to commemorate his swift and decisive victory in the Gujarat campaign.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** Bara Imambara is a magnificent non-Mughal structure in Lucknow, built by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula of Awadh.
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** The Rumi Darwaza (Turkish Gate) is also located in Lucknow, and was built by Asaf-ud-Daula as part of a famine relief project, modeled after a gate in Constantinople.

6. Match the following campaigns of Akbar with their specific historical significance:

Campaign	Significance/Outcome
1. Conquest of Gujarat	Provided the Mughal Empire with access to the sea and control over major foreign trade ports like Surat.
2. Conquest of Bihar & Bengal	Marked the final defeat of the last effective remnants of the Afghan Sur dynasty.
3. Annexation of Khandesh	Gave the Mughals a strategic foothold on the Deccan plateau and control over the gateway to the South.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Gujarat (1572 CE) was vital for its thriving maritime trade and control over the pilgrimage routes to Mecca.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** The defeat of Daud Khan Karrani (the last independent Sultan of Bengal) and the subsequent formal annexation of Bengal (1576 CE) signaled the end of the powerful Afghan challenge to Mughal authority.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** Khandesh (annexed in 1601 CE) was strategically crucial, particularly its capital, the strong fort of Asirgarh, which was called the 'Key to the Deccan'.

7. Consider the following pairs related to the North West frontier under Akbar:

Region/Figure	Significance / Association
1. Mirza Muhammad Hakim	Akbar's half-brother who continually challenged Mughal rule from his base in Kabul.

2. Yusufzai Tribe	The fierce tribe whose rebellion led to the death of Akbar's close associate, Raja Birbal.
3. Annexation of Kashmir	Completed peacefully through diplomacy without any significant military confrontation.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Mirza Muhammad Hakim (ruler of Kabul) constantly exploited rebellions in North India to invade Punjab, forcing Akbar to address the threat directly.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** The Yusufzai tribe in the Swat and Bajaur regions launched a fierce rebellion (1586 CE), and the Mughal forces sent to subdue them suffered a severe defeat, resulting in the death of Raja Birbal.
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** The Annexation of Kashmir (1586 CE) was achieved through military pressure and a campaign led by Raja Bhagwan Das and Qasim Khan, after the ruler, Yusuf Shah Chak, failed to submit. It was not a purely diplomatic acquisition.

8. Match the following figures and places with their role in the conquest of Sindh and Multan by Akbar:

Figure/Place	Role / Association
1. Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khana	The Mughal general tasked with the final and successful conquest of Sindh.
2. Thatta	The capital city of the region ruled by the Tarkhan dynasty before its annexation.
3. Strategic Importance	The region was crucial for securing the western land route to Persia and centralizing trade.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Khan-i-Khana (Akbar's close confidant and son of Bairam Khan) successfully led the campaign that defeated the Tarkhan dynasty of Sindh and annexed the region (1591 CE).
- **Pair 2: Correct.** Thatta (or Thatha) was the capital of the Tarkhan rulers of Sindh.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** The conquest of Sindh and Multan was strategically important for controlling the mouth of the Indus River and securing the trade route towards Kandahar and Persia, which was essential for economic and military stability.

9. Match the following artists and architectural features with their association during Akbar's reign:

Artist/Feature	Association
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1. Basawan and Daswanth	Prominent Persian masters credited with founding the Mughal School of miniature painting.
2. Panch Mahal	A five-storeyed pillared structure in Fatehpur Sikri, inspired by a Buddhist Vihara model.
3. Akbar's Tomb at Sikandra	The first Mughal tomb to be enclosed in a Persian-style Charbagh (four-quartered garden).

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Incorrect.** While **Basawan and Daswanth** were highly prominent and innovative court painters during Akbar's reign, the foundation of the Mughal school is generally credited to the Persian masters **Mir Sayyid Ali** and **Abdus Samad**, who Humayun brought from Persia.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** The **Panch Mahal** (Wind Tower) in Fatehpur Sikri is a unique structure designed to resemble a tiered Buddhist Vihara, incorporating elements of temple and palace architecture.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** The **Tomb of Humayun** in Delhi (built by his wife Hamida Banu Begum) was the first Mughal tomb to be enclosed in a **Charbagh**. Akbar's Tomb at Sikandra is also set in a Charbagh, but it was not the first.

10. Match the following literary works/figures with their correct feature or contribution during Akbar's time:

Work/Figure	Contribution/Feature
1. Tulsidas	Author of Ramcharitmanas, who wrote independently of the Mughal court's patronage.
2. Tarikh-i-Alfi	A compilation of world history, commissioned by Akbar, covering a thousand years of Islam.
3. Abul Fazl	Author of the Akbarnama, which includes the Ain-i-Akbari as its third volume.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** **Tulsidas** (c. 1532–1623 CE), a contemporary of Akbar, wrote the Ramcharitmanas in Awadhi dialect of Hindi, achieving great popularity outside the court circles.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** **Tarikh-i-Alfi** (History of a Thousand) was commissioned by Akbar to chronologically document the history of Islam, marking a major state literary project.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** **Abul Fazl** was the official court historian. The Akbarnama (History of Akbar) is divided into three parts, with the third part being the statistical and administrative manual, Ain-i-Akbari.

Administrative System Under Akbar

1. With reference to the organization of the Mughal Government under Akbar, consider the following statements:

1. The Mughals established a clear separation between the military and civil departments at the central level, with the Mir Bakhshi heading both military recruitment and revenue collection.
2. Akbar reformed the office of the Wazir, deliberately creating the separate office of the Diwan-i-Kul to centralize all financial affairs and prevent the Wazir from accumulating absolute power.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** The Mughal system separated finance/revenue (headed by the Diwan/Wazir) from the military (headed by the **Mir Bakhshi**). The Mir Bakhshi was responsible for military recruitment and muster but had no direct responsibility for revenue collection.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Akbar consciously reduced the all-encompassing power of the old Wazir (Vakil) by establishing the **Diwan-i-Kul** (Chief Diwan) as the head of the revenue department. This separation of powers was a major characteristic of Akbar's central administration.

2. Consider the following pairs of central administrative officials during Akbar's reign:

Official	Responsibility
1. Diwan-i-Kul	Chief royal store and factory administrator.
2. Mir Bakhshi	Head of the intelligence network and military recruitment.
3. Sadr-us-Sudur	Censor of Public Morals and regulator of markets.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Incorrect.** The **Diwan-i-Kul** was the Chief Finance and Revenue Minister. The administrator of royal factories and stores was the **Mir Saman** (or Khan-i-Saman).
- **Pair 2: Correct.** The **Mir Bakhshi** was the head of the military department, overseeing recruitment, mustering, and was also responsible for organizing the imperial intelligence and news writers (Waqai-Nawis).
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** The **Sadr-us-Sudur** was the head of religious endowments and grants (Sadr) and the Chief Justice (Qazi). The official responsible for enforcing religious laws and regulating markets/morals was the **Muhtasib**.

3. With reference to the evolution of the Provincial Administration under Akbar, consider the following statements:

1. The formal division of the Mughal Empire into twelve administrative provinces, or **Subas**, was completed after the conquest of the Deccan, totaling fifteen Subas by the end of his reign.
2. Akbar introduced the system of dual control in the provinces by appointing a **Subahdar** (Governor) for military and administrative matters and a separate **Diwan** for revenue and financial control.
3. The structure of the **Suba** administration was a direct replication of the centralized administration, with key officials mirroring those at the imperial court.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Akbar established 12 Subas around 1580 CE. By the end of his reign (1605 CE), after the conquest of the Deccan, three more Subas (Berar, Khandesh, and Ahmadnagar/Daulatabad) were added, making the total 15.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** This dual control system ensured the provincial Diwan (reporting to the central Diwan) checked the power of the Subahdar (reporting to the Emperor), preventing governors from becoming too independent.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The provincial administration mirrored the central government: Subahdar (Emperor's representative), Provincial Diwan (central Diwan), Provincial Bakhshi (Mir Bakhshi), and Provincial Sadr (Sadr-us-Sudur).

4. Consider the following administrative units and their corresponding chief Executive/Military official during Akbar's time:

Administrative Unit	Chief Official (Executive/Military)
1. Suba	Subahdar (or Sipah Salar)
2. Sarkar (District)	Faujdar
3. Pargana (Sub-district)	Shiqdar

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** The **Suba** (Province) was headed by the **Subahdar** (Governor), also known as the Sipah Salar.

- **Pair 2: Correct.** The **Sarkar** (District) was the jurisdiction of the **Faujdar**, who was responsible for maintaining law and order and leading the military contingent.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** The **Pargana** (Sub-district) was the jurisdiction of the **Shiqdar**, who was the chief administrative and law-and-order official at that level.

5. Consider the following terms related to the local administration and land systems in medieval India:

Term	Region / Meaning
1. Mahattara	Village headman or representative in the Gangetic plains.
2. Pattakila	Hereditary owner of land/village chief in the Deccan region.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Neither one nor two
- (d) Cannot be determined under Akbar's administration

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Incorrect.** **Mahattara** is an ancient term (Sanskrit origin) for a village chief, primarily associated with the **Deccan** (Maratha/Chalukya/Rashtrakuta) and Western India, similar to the Patil. The corresponding headman in the Gangetic plains under the Mughals was the Muqaddam or Chaudhari.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** **Pattakila** (or **Patil**), derived from pattakila in Sanskrit, was indeed the hereditary village headman or landholder/chief, especially prominent in the Deccan region, wielding significant local power.

6. Match the following regional land revenue assessment systems used during Akbar's reign with their characteristic features:

System	Region / Feature
1. Kankut	Used in regions where survey was difficult; involved revenue based on a calculated estimate of the standing crop.
2. Batai (Ghallabakshi)	Prevalent in frontier regions like Sindh; involved payment based on the division of the actual harvested crop in kind.
3. Zabti (Bandobast)	Implemented in the core areas of the empire (Delhi, Agra, Lahore); involved a fixed demand in cash based on a 10-year average.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct. Kankut** (Kut = Estimate) was a system of appraisal based on a sight survey of the standing crop when detailed measurement was impractical.
- **Pair 2: Correct. Batai** (or Ghallabakshi) literally means division of the produce and was paid in kind, often used in newly conquered or less centralized frontier areas due to its simplicity.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** The **Zabti** or **Dahsala** system (introduced by Todar Mal in 1580 CE) was the standard system in the most important Subas and was based on measured land, classified soil, and an average cash demand calculated over ten years.

7. With reference to the Zabti/Dahsala system of Land Revenue under Akbar, consider the following statements:

1. The revenue classification depended on both the continuity of cultivation and the fertility of the soil, with separate averages calculated for different crops.
2. The state's share of the average produce (one-third) was converted into cash by using the average prices of the preceding ten years, which was a core feature distinguishing it from the simple Kankut method.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Land was classified into four categories based on the continuity of cultivation (Polaj, Parauti, Chachar, Banjar). Within these, the land was further graded (good, middling, bad) for crop yield estimation, and averages were calculated crop-wise.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The use of the ten-year average of both yield and price was the defining, sophisticated feature of the Dahsala system, allowing the demand to be fixed in cash and providing stability.

8. Match the following categories of land classification used in the Mughal revenue system with their precise description:

Land Category	Description
1. Polaj	Land that was cultivated regularly and never allowed to lie fallow.
2. Parauti	Land that was allowed to lie fallow for a short period (1 or 2 years) to recover fertility.
3. Banjar	Land that was uncultivated for five or more years, often due to lack of effort.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** Polaj was continuously cultivated land (annually).
- **Pair 2: Correct.** Parauti was land temporarily left fallow (1-2 years) to restore its potential.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** Banjar was the least fertile/most neglected land, uncultivated for five or more years, and subject to the lowest tax rate (or none initially). (The fourth category, Chachar, was land fallow for 3-4 years).

9. With respect to the agricultural initiatives and land revenue innovations during Akbar's time, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The state introduced the practice of providing agricultural loans, known as Taccavi, to farmers, particularly during periods of crop failure.
2. To maintain accurate records, a new class of village officials called Karoris was established, responsible for maintaining land records and tax collection for over a crore of Dams.

Select the correct code:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The system of Taccavi (loans) was formalized and implemented by Akbar to aid cultivators, showing the state's paternalistic approach to agriculture.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The Karori system was introduced in 1573-74 CE. The Karori was an official appointed to a tract of land theoretically yielding a crore (ten million) of Dams. Their primary job was revenue assessment and collection, alongside maintaining land records.

10. With reference to the Mansabdari System introduced by Akbar, consider the following statements:

1. The Zat rank determined the Mansabdar's personal pay and position in the administrative hierarchy, while the Sawar rank stipulated the actual cavalry contingent to be maintained.
2. The number of cavalry soldiers a Mansabdar was required to maintain was subject to reduction based on regional assignment, such as whether the troops were stationed in Hindustan or in distant provinces like Kabul or the Deccan.
3. The system was entirely non-hereditary, and upon the death of a Mansabdar, the principle of Escheat (or Zabti) was applied, whereby all personal assets were legally confiscated by the crown.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Zat (personal) fixed the Mansabdar's status and personal salary. Sawar (cavalry) fixed the military obligation and the salary meant to pay for that contingent.

- **Statement 2: Correct.** The standard scales were not universally applied. A Mansabdar's Sawar rank often had a fractional requirement (e.g., 1/2 or 1/3) of the stated number if serving in difficult frontier regions like the Deccan or Kabul.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Mansab (rank) was never hereditary, ensuring the Mansabdars remained dependent on the Emperor. The practice of **Escheat** (State appropriation of the deceased noble's wealth to settle any debts to the State) was established, ensuring that vast wealth could not pass down freely, limiting the establishment of independent hereditary power bases.

Akbar, Jahangir, and Shah Jahan

1. With reference to the Jagirdari System during the Mughal Empire, consider the following statements:

1. The Tankhwa Jagir was an assignment of land given to a Mansabdar to cover his salary, which was inherently transferable and not hereditary.
2. The practice of reserving centrally administered land as Paibaqi meant that these were reserved Khalisa lands set aside temporarily before being formally assigned as Jagirs.
3. The later crisis of the Jagirdari system was characterized by a massive gap between the officially assessed revenue (Jama) and the actual revenue collected (Hasil).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Tankhwa Jagirs were granted in lieu of salary (Tankhwa) and were regularly transferred to prevent the development of local vested interests. Watan Jagirs (ancestral lands granted to Rajputs) were hereditary and non-transferable.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Paibaqi referred to land whose revenue records were complete and ready for assignment as Jagirs but were temporarily held in the Khalisa (state-owned land) fund until a suitable Mansabdar was found.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The crisis stemmed from the severe mismatch between the theoretical Jama (inflated estimate) and the true Hasil (actual collection), leading to Mansabdars being unable to maintain their required contingents and growing corruption.

2. With reference to the development of Akbar's religious policy, consider the following statements:

1. The concept of Sulh-i-Kul (peace to all) was conceived by Akbar after the debates held in the Ibadat Khana, which was open to all religious scholars from its inception.
2. Akbar issued the Mahzar (Infallibility Decree) in 1579 CE, granting him the authority to choose between conflicting interpretations of Islamic law, which preceded the abolition of the Jizya.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** The **Ibadat Khana** (House of Worship), established in 1575 CE, was initially open only to Sunnis, then to all Muslim sects, and only later (1578 CE onwards) to scholars of other religions (Hindus, Jains, Christians, Zoroastrians). The concept of Sulh-i-Kul was a result of these later broad-based discussions.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The **Mahzar** was issued in 1579 CE, allowing Akbar to act as the ultimate interpreter of Islamic law (Imam-i-Adil) in certain religious disputes. The **Jizya** was abolished earlier, in 1564 CE.

3. Consider the following pairs of Akbar's "Navratnas" (Nine Jewels) and their principal domain/contribution:

Name	Domain/Contribution
1. Todar Mal	Chief Minister and Administrator of Justice (Vakil).
2. Faizi	Court Poet and Sanskrit scholar who translated the Mahabharata into Persian.
3. Abul Fazl	Author of the official history, Akbarnama, and a key political theorist.
4. Tansen	Court musician whose compositions are primarily known for their influence on Sufi music.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Incorrect.** **Todar Mal** was the **Revenue and Finance Minister** (Diwan-i-Kul) and the architect of the Dahsala system. The Vakil was generally the Prime Minister.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** **Faizi** (brother of Abul Fazl) was the poet laureate who headed the translation department (Maktab Khana) and translated works like the Mahabharata and Panchatantra into Persian.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** **Abul Fazl** was the chronicler of Akbar's life, documenting the history of the reign in the Akbarnama.
- **Pair 4: Incorrect.** **Tansen** was renowned for his contribution to **Hindustani Classical Music**, especially the creation of new Ragas, not primarily Sufi music.

4. Which one of the following was NOT a policy or social reform initiated by Emperor Akbar?

- (a) Prohibition of forced Sati and allowing the remarriage of widows.
- (b) Legalization of the use of interest-bearing loans (Riba) to promote trade and commerce.
- (c) Introduction of the practice of Jharokha Darshan as a means of connecting with the common populace.
- (d) Implementation of the Dahsala system, which was based on the average prices of crops over a ten-year period.

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **(a), (b), and (c) are all examples of Akbar's social, religious, or political innovations.** Akbar actively legislated against forced Sati and child marriage, and introduced Jharokha Darshan (c) to appear before the people daily. Akbar also made religious interpretations (b) flexible to promote trade.
- **(d) is Incorrect.** The Dahsala system was a **land revenue administration reform**, not a state religion or social reform. While important, it falls under the administrative domain, distinguishing it from the others.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the reign of Jahangir:

1. The growing influence of the Nur Jahan Junta (which included her father Itmad-ud-daula and brother Asaf Khan) was the direct cause of the rebellion of Prince Khurram (Shah Jahan).
2. The execution of Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh Guru, resulted from his open political and material support for the rebellion of Prince Khusrau, Jahangir's eldest son.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The powerful Junta initially supported Khurram but later shifted allegiance to his younger half-brother, Shahryar, whose marriage to Nur Jahan's daughter, Ladli Begum, made him a pawn for the group's influence. This threat to Khurram's succession prompted his rebellion.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** When Prince Khusrau rebelled in 1606 CE, Guru Arjan Dev provided him with financial and spiritual support, which Jahangir viewed as an act of treason. This led to the Guru's execution and marked the beginning of Mughal-Sikh conflict.

6. Consider the following pairs related to the expansionist policy of Jahangir:

Event/Figure	Association/Outcome
1. Submission of Mewar	Resulted in the award of the title Shah Jahan to Prince Khurram.
2. Malik Ambar	Abyssinian general and Wazir of the Ahmadnagar Sultanate who defeated Mughal forces multiple times.
3. Loss of Kandahar	Severely weakened Mughal prestige in Central Asia and was a major failure of Jahangir's foreign policy.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Incorrect.** Prince Khurram was awarded the title **Shah Jahan** (King of the World) after his successful campaign that compelled the **Deccan Sultanates (Bijapur/Ahmadnagar)** to submit (c. 1617 CE), not for the Mewar campaign.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** **Malik Ambar** was the brilliant regent/Wazir of the Ahmadnagar Sultanate who employed Guerilla warfare (Bargi-Giri) and continually reclaimed territory lost to the Mughals.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** **Kandahar** was captured by the Persian Shah Abbas I in 1622 CE. Jahangir's failure to recapture it due to Shah Jahan's simultaneous rebellion was a major setback that permanently compromised Mughal prestige in the North-West.

7. With reference to early European presence at the Mughal Court, consider the following statements:

1. Captain William Hawkins was the first representative from the East India Company to visit the court of Jahangir, who secured an imperial farman to establish a factory in Surat.
2. Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, a renowned French traveler and diamond merchant, visited India during the reign of Shah Jahan and provided valuable accounts of the Mughal court and infrastructure.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** Captain Hawkins (1609-1611 CE) failed to obtain the farman (imperial decree) for permanent settlement due to Portuguese opposition. It was **Sir Thomas Roe** (1615-1619 CE) who later succeeded in securing the imperial patronage from Jahangir.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Tavernier made six voyages to the East, covering the reigns of **Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb**. His account, *Travels in India*, is a key source on the period, particularly regarding the diamond mines (like Golconda) and the Peacock Throne.

8. Match the following terms related to the life and reign of Jahangir:

Term/Figure	Association/Feature
1. Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri	Jahangir's official autobiography, originally written in Persian.
2. Zanjir-i-Adl	A golden chain connected to a bell installed at the Agra Fort for petitioners seeking justice.
3. Ustad Mansur	Famous court artist who excelled in the realistic depiction of portraits and historical scenes.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** The **Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri** (or Jahangirnama) is indeed the autobiography of Jahangir, and it was written in the court language, **Persian**.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** The **Zanjir-i-Adl** (Chain of Justice) was Jahangir's famous system of direct appeal, installed outside the **Agra Fort**, symbolizing his commitment to swift justice.
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** **Ustad Mansur** was renowned for his mastery in painting **animals and birds**, achieving a level of realism that surpassed his contemporaries, not primarily portraits or historical scenes (which were done by artists like Abul Hasan).

9. With reference to Shah Jahan's successful Deccan policy, consider the following statements:

1. Shah Jahan's primary achievement was the decisive annexation of the Ahmadnagar Sultanate in 1633 CE, eliminating the buffer state between the Mughals and the southern sultanates.
2. The submission of Ahmadnagar was significantly aided by the Mughal's diplomatic success in convincing Shahji Bhonsle, father of Shivaji, to join Mughal service as a Mansabdar.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The elimination of the Nizam Shahi dynasty and the formal annexation of Ahmadnagar in 1633 CE (after a long campaign) marked a major success for Shah Jahan's Deccan policy.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** **Shahji Bhonsle** fought on the side of the Nizam Shahis and, following the fall of Ahmadnagar, refused to join the Mughals. He later transferred his service and loyalty to the **Adil Shahis of Bijapur**, continuing to challenge Mughal authority.

10. With reference to the Treaties of 1636 signed by Shah Jahan with the Deccan Sultanates, consider the following:

1. The treaty with Bijapur formally settled the boundaries of the respective empires, leading to a long period of peace between the Adil Shahis and the Mughals.
2. The treaty with Golconda (Qutb Shahis) included the key term that the Sultan must cease mentioning the name of the Persian Shah in the Friday Khutba (sermon) and accept the Mughal Emperor as his political overlord.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The 1636 treaty with Bijapur was a landmark agreement that stabilized the Deccan. It fixed the boundaries of Bijapur, assigned it a large portion of the defunct Ahmadnagar kingdom, and created a period of non-aggression that lasted until 1657 CE.

- **Statement 2: Correct.** The symbolic terms of both 1636 treaties (with Golconda and Bijapur) were crucial. The demand that the Qutb Shah, being a Shi'a ruler, drop the Safavid Shah's name and replace it with the Mughal Emperor's name was a powerful assertion of Mughal suzerainty in the region.

Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Aurangzeb

1. With reference to the impact of the Treaties of 1636 CE signed by Shah Jahan with the Deccan Sultanates (Bijapur and Golconda), consider the following statements:

1. The treaties temporarily stabilized the Deccan, allowing Shah Jahan to refocus significant imperial resources on the permanent annexation of the volatile North-West frontier province of Qandahar.
2. Bijapur was compelled to accept a new boundary that included a large portion of the defunct Ahmadnagar Sultanate, and was specifically restricted from interfering in the affairs of the Marathas.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** The 1636 peace allowed Shah Jahan to turn his attention to the North-West (Central Asian/Qandahar campaigns), as the Deccan was, for the moment, stable and its rulers had formally submitted to Mughal suzerainty.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** Bijapur did receive a large portion of the Ahmadnagar territory, but the treaty did not impose a specific restriction regarding interference in **Maratha** affairs. In fact, Bijapur's subsequent inability to control powerful Maratha nobles who previously served Ahmadnagar (like Shahji Bhonsle) became an indirect cause of future Mughal-Maratha conflict.

2. Regarding the military campaigns and the status of Qandahar during the mid-17th century, consider the following statements:

1. Qandahar was permanently lost to the Persians during the reign of Jahangir, and Shah Jahan was subsequently unable to recapture it despite multiple large-scale military sieges.
2. Shah Jahan's disastrous Central Asian campaign (Balkh and Badakhshan) was the immediate precursor to the final Persian reconquest of Qandahar in 1649 CE.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** Qandahar was lost to Persia once under Jahangir (1622 CE), but the Mughals **recaptured** it in 1638 CE during Shah Jahan's reign (by Ali Mardan Khan). It was permanently lost again to Shah Abbas II of Persia in 1649 CE, from which point Shah Jahan (and later Aurangzeb) failed to recover it.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The expensive and poorly executed Balkh and Badakhshan campaign (1646-47 CE) thoroughly exhausted the Mughal treasury and demoralized the army, leaving it vulnerable. The Persians exploited this weakness to successfully seize Qandahar in 1649 CE.

3. Consider the following pairs related to the architectural achievements of the reign of Shah Jahan:

Structure/Feature	Location / Architectural Element
1. Moti Masjid	Located within the Agra Fort, constructed entirely in white marble.
2. Pietra Dura	The decorative technique prominently used on the Taj Mahal and the Peacock Throne.
3. Diwan-i-Khas	The Hall of Private Audience in the Red Fort, Delhi, known for its unique arched roof design.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** The **Moti Masjid** (Pearl Mosque) in the Agra Fort was built by Shah Jahan entirely of pure white marble, often cited as an architectural gem.
- **Pair 2: Correct.** **Pietra Dura** (or Parchin Kari in Persian) is the mosaic technique of inlaying hard and rare stones into marble, famously used for the intricate floral patterns on the Taj Mahal and the description of the Peacock Throne (Takht-i-Taus).
- **Pair 3: Incorrect.** The **Diwan-i-Khas** in the Delhi Red Fort is known for its beautiful marble and gilded decoration, but its roof design is flat and supported by columns, not a **unique arched roof** design.

4. Match the following figures/events of Jahangir's reign with their principal association:

Figure/Event	Association
1. Prince Khusrau	Executed for supporting the rebellion of Mahabat Khan against the Emperor.
2. Itmad-ud-daula	Nur Jahan's father, who held the post of Chief Diwan, symbolizing the rise of the Junta.
3. Mahabat Khan	Successfully led a coup that briefly imprisoned the Emperor and the Empress.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Incorrect.** Prince Khusrau rebelled immediately after Jahangir's accession (1606 CE) and was subsequently executed (1622 CE) after being imprisoned, but he was **not** executed for supporting

Mahabat Khan. He was executed due to his continued threat to the throne and was likely killed at Shah Jahan's (Prince Khurram's) instance.

- **Pair 2: Correct. Itmad-ud-daula** (Mirza Ghiyas Beg) was Nur Jahan's father and a powerful member of the ruling clique (Junta) until his death in 1622 CE.
- **Pair 3: Correct. Mahabat Khan** led a military coup in 1626 CE in response to the Junta's attempts to curb his power, resulting in the temporary capture of both Jahangir and Nur Jahan.

5. Which one of the following statements about the War of Succession (1657-1659 CE) among Shah Jahan's sons is correct?

- (a) Dara Shikoh was defeated decisively at the Battle of Samugarh, which was the final engagement that led to Aurangzeb's undisputed claim to the throne.
- (b) Prince Shuja was the first of the brothers to declare himself Emperor, but he was soon defeated by Aurangzeb's forces at the Battle of Khajwa.
- (c) Prince Murad Bakhsh was an active military ally of Aurangzeb, who received the governorship of Gujarat and agreed to a partition of the Empire after the victory.
- (d) Shah Jahan was deposed and imprisoned in the Red Fort, Delhi, where he spent his final years being cared for by his eldest daughter, Jahanara.

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **(a) Incorrect.** While Samugarh was decisive, the final defeat of Dara Shikoh occurred later at the **Battle of Deorai** (1659 CE).
- **(b) Correct. Shuja** (Governor of Bengal) crowned himself first and marched toward Agra but was defeated by Aurangzeb at Khajwa (near Fatehpur, 1659 CE), forcing him to retreat.
- **(c) Incorrect.** Murad Bakhsh was an ally but was soon imprisoned and later executed by Aurangzeb after the initial victories, as Aurangzeb had no intention of partitioning the Empire.
- **(d) Incorrect.** Shah Jahan was imprisoned in the **Agra Fort**, not the Delhi Red Fort (Shahjahanabad).

6. With reference to Aurangzeb's Deccan campaigns, which led to the annexation of Bijapur and Golconda, consider the following statements:

1. The primary political justification for the annexation of the two Deccan Sultanates was their alleged secret collusion with the rising Maratha power led by Shambhaji.
2. The conquest led to a catastrophic financial strain, famously known as the 'Deccan Ulcer', resulting in a deepening of the Jagirdari Crisis across the entire Mughal Empire.
3. The final annexation of the region proved counter-productive, as it removed the protective buffer states and exposed the Mughal administration directly to the vast, dispersed, and decentralized Maratha guerrilla forces.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Bijapur and Golconda often aided the Marathas against the Mughals. This alliance was the stated political justification for the annexations (Bijapur 1686, Golconda 1687).

- **Statement 2: Correct.** The endless, expensive wars in the Deccan drained the imperial treasury and strained the Mansabdari system, intensifying the **Jagirdari Crisis** (shortage of available Jagirs relative to the number of Mansabdars).
- **Statement 3: Correct.** The Sultanates acted as a buffer. Their removal meant the Mughals had to deal directly with the highly mobile and resilient Maratha armies across the vast, difficult terrain, which the Mughal forces were ill-equipped to handle, thus accelerating the empire's decay.

7. Which of the following statements correctly reflects the impact of Aurangzeb's religious policy on political stability?

1. The re-imposition of the Jizya in 1679 CE was viewed as an administrative necessity to stabilize the economy after the Deccan wars.
2. The military conflict resulting from the alienation of the Rathore Rajputs of Marwar following the death of Jaswant Singh forced Aurangzeb to divert resources from the Deccan, delaying his campaign there.
3. The rise of the Jat and Satnami rebellions were solely due to Aurangzeb's policy of temple destruction and the persecution of non-Muslim faiths.

Select the correct code:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Incorrect.** The Jizya was framed as a religiously orthodox measure (tax on non-Muslim subjects), not purely an economic one, and caused widespread resentment.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The long, costly Marwar War (1679-1707 CE) in Rajasthan diverted massive imperial resources and Mansabdars to the north, significantly weakening the ongoing campaigns in the Deccan.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** While Aurangzeb's orthodoxy contributed, the Jat and Satnami rebellions primarily originated as **socio-economic peasant uprisings** (Jats) or localized conflict that rapidly escalated (Satnamis), fueled by oppressive revenue demands and conflicts with local Mughal officials.

8. Which of the following steps taken by Emperor Aurangzeb is best categorized as a secular administrative reform or legal contribution, rather than a purely religious or orthodox decree?

- (a) The banning of the singing of classical music at the imperial court and the dismissal of royal musicians.
- (b) The abolition of the Jharokha Darshan (public balcony appearance) tradition started by Akbar.
- (c) The compilation of the Fatawa-i-Alamgiri (a compendium of Islamic laws) in Persian.
- (d) The decision to remove the inscription of the Kalima (Islamic creed) from Mughal coins.

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **(a) and (b)** are both orthodox religious decrees aimed at purging court practices of what was deemed 'un-Islamic'.
- (c) The Fatawa-i-Alamgiri is a major legal and religious contribution, but its intent was to make the state administration follow a fixed corpus of Sunni Hanafi law, thus reinforcing orthodoxy, not secularism.
- **(d) Correct.** Aurangzeb ordered the removal of the Kalima from coins to prevent the inscription of the holy text from being defiled by non-believers, such as when coins passed through the hands of Hindus

or were lost/buried in the ground. This was a pragmatic administrative/security decision taken for a religious reason, but distinct from the direct imposition of religious law on the populace.

9. With reference to Aurangzeb's policy toward the Rajputs, consider the following statements:

1. Aurangzeb generally maintained the sanctity of the Watan Jagir system, ensuring Rajput rulers retained their ancestral domains.
2. The Mughal-Rajput alliance first strained after Aurangzeb demanded a substantial Peshkash (tribute) from the Rajput states following his victory in the War of Succession.
3. The final break occurred over Aurangzeb's attempt to directly annex the state of Marwar (Jodhpur) into the Khalisa lands, denying the succession claim of the deceased ruler's minor son.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** While relations deteriorated, the Watan Jagir system remained largely intact, as it was the cornerstone of the alliance.
- **Statement 2: Incorrect.** While tribute was often exacted, the first major strain that led to war was Aurangzeb's decision to interfere in the succession of **Marwar** (Jodhpur) and his aggressive actions towards the infant Ajit Singh.
- **Statement 3: Correct.** Following the death of Maharaja Jaswant Singh (Rathore ruler of Marwar) in 1678 CE, Aurangzeb initially refused to recognize the claim of his infant son, Ajit Singh, and attempted to place Marwar under **Khalisa** (direct Mughal administration), triggering the Rathore rebellion.

10. Which of the following is the most accurate description of the personal character and administrative style of Emperor Aurangzeb (Alamgir)?

- (a) He was an intellectual patron of music and fine arts, yet lacked the decisive military leadership necessary for a stable empire.
- (b) He was a frugal and disciplined individual who devoted himself to state affairs but suffered from extreme paranoia and distrust of his closest nobles.
- (c) He was a great builder and architectural innovator who preferred courtly pleasures and left the day-to-day administration to his efficient Mansabdars.
- (d) He was a skilled politician who believed in religious pluralism, earning him the title Zinda Pir (Living Saint).

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **(b) Correct.** Aurangzeb was renowned for his austere lifestyle, strict personal adherence to the tenets of Islam (earning him the nickname Zinda Pir, which is generally associated with his piety, not pluralism), and immense dedication to administrative work. However, his suspicion of almost everyone—including his sons and leading generals—prevented the delegation necessary for managing an empire of the size it had reached, leading to poor morale and administration.
- **(a) Incorrect.** He was an efficient military leader, but he **banned** music and dismissed court musicians.
- **(c) Incorrect.** Shah Jahan was the great builder; Aurangzeb curtailed spending on such projects and preferred a life of austerity.

- **(d) Incorrect.** He was known for his **strict Sunni orthodoxy** and the reversal of many of Akbar's pluralistic policies, which alienated large sections of the non-Muslim population.

