

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

2nd week, October 2026

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Bhakti Saints in South/North India

1. Which of the following statements with regard to Adi Shankaracharya is/are correct?

1. Adi Shankaracharya provide philosophy of Advaita Vedanta, holding that Brahman is the sole reality and the phenomenal world is illusory.
2. He advocated Jnanamarga, emphasizing that moksha is attained through direct experiential knowledge of the Self.
3. His major literary works include the Upadeshasahasri, Vivekachudamani, and Bhaja Govindam.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Adi Shankaracharya (8th century CE) expounded Advaita Vedanta (Non-Dualism), summarized in the core dictum "Brahma Satyam, Jagat Mithya, Jivo Brahmaiva Na Aparah" (Brahman alone is real, the world is illusory, and the individual soul is non-different from Brahman).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He established that Jnanamarga (the path of knowledge) is the direct means to moksha, arguing that ritualistic performance (karmamarga) merely purifies the mind but cannot dispel ignorance (avidya).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** His original non-commentary texts include Upadeshasahasri, Vivekachudamani, and devotional hymns like Bhaja Govindam.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to medieval Southern Bhakti philosophers is/are correct?

1. Ramanujacharya challenged absolute monism of Adi Shankaracharya by advocating Vishishtadvaita and Vishnu Bhakti.
2. Madhvacharya propounded Dvaita philosophy, arguing that the individual soul (jiva) is eternally distinct from the supreme reality.
3. Tallapaka Annamacharya was an 18th-century Carnatic musician who served as the chief court composer for the Tanjore Maratha kings.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sri Ramanujacharya (1017–1137 CE) refuted absolute monism and formulated Vishishtadvaita, holding that the world and individual souls are real attributes/modes of Brahman (Vishnu).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Madhvacharya (1238–1317 CE) established Dvaita (Dualism), emphasizing five fundamental, eternal distinctions (Pancha Bheda) between God, souls, and matter.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Tallapaka Annamacharya lived during the 15th century (1408–1503) at Tirumala (Andhra Pradesh). He is revered as the pioneer of Telugu sankirtana literature, not an 18th-century court musician of Tanjore.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Vallabhacharya is/are correct?

1. Vallabhacharya propounded the school of Shuddhadvaita and founded the Pushtimarg tradition.
2. Vallabhacharya mandated strict celibate monasticism for all followers of his school, forbidding householders from devotional practice.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Vallabhacharya (1479–1531) established Shuddhadvaita (unalloyed monism without relying on the concept of Maya) and founded Pushtimarg, which centers on intense loving devotion (Vatsalya Bhakti) to Krishna.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Vallabhacharya specifically advocated householder life (Grihastha ashrama) for Vaishnava practitioners, maintaining that devotion to Lord Krishna can be fully realized within domestic and family life.

4. Which of the following statements regarding Purandara Dasa and Nimbarkacharya are correct?

1. Purandara Dasa lived during Vijayanagara Empire and is revered as Pitamaha of Carnatic Music.
2. Purandara Dasa composed extensive devotional literature known as Dasa Sahithya in Kannada.
3. Nimbarkacharya propounded the philosophy of Advaita Vedanta and authored text Vivekachudamani.
4. Nimbarkacharya emphasized Bhakti Yoga centered on the worship of Radha-Krishna.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Purandara Dasa was a contemporary of King Krishnadevaraya of Vijayanagara and systematically structured the foundational exercises (Svaravalis, Alankaras) of Carnatic music.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** His vast body of Kannada devotional poetry and musical compositions is classified as Dasa Sahithya.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Nimbarkacharya propounded Dvaitadvaita (Dualistic Non-Dualism) and authored the commentary Vedanta Parijata Saurabha. Vivekachudamani was written by Adi Shankaracharya.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Nimbarkacharya was among the earliest philosophers to give central theological prominence to the joint worship of Radha and Krishna.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Tyagaraja and Muthuswami Dikshitar is/are correct?

1. Tyagaraja composed celebrated Pancharatna Kritis in praise of Lord Rama, incorporating complex gamakas.
2. Muthuswami Dikshitar composed primarily in Telugu and used the musical signature Tyagaraja in his works.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Saint Tyagaraja composed the Pancharatna Kritis in five major ghana ragas (Nata, Gaula, Arabhi, Varali, Sri) dedicated to Lord Rama, employing intricate musical ornamentation (gamakas).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Muthuswami Dikshitar composed predominantly in Sanskrit (not Telugu) and used the signature mudra Guruguha (a reference to Lord Murugan/Kartikeya), whereas Tyagaraja was the signature of Tyagaraja himself.

6. Which Carnatic music composer developed the Svarajati from a dance form into a structured classical concert genre and incorporated the musical signature Syama-Krishna in praise of Goddess Kamakshi?

- (a) Tyagaraja
- (b) Syama Sastri
- (c) Muthuswami Dikshitar
- (d) Purandara Dasa

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Syama Sastri (1762–1827 CE):** The oldest of the Carnatic Trinity, he elevated the musical genre of Svarajati into complex concert pieces (notably his three Raratna Svarajatis in Todi, Bhairavi, and Yadukula Kambhoji). He was a devotee of Goddess Kamakshi of Kanchipuram and embedded the mudra Syama Krishna in his Telugu compositions.

7. Which of the following statements regarding medieval Bhakti movement figures are correct?

1. Ramananda served as a crucial bridge between South Indian Bhakti traditions and the North Indian vernacular movement.
2. Ramananda's disciples included individuals across diverse social backgrounds, such as Kabir, Ravidas and Sena.
3. Lal Ded was a 14th-century Shaivite mystic who pioneered the Vakh poetic style in the Kashmiri language.
4. Kabir authored Ramcharitmanas and rejected the spiritual validity of Sikh canonical texts.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ramananda (14th/15th century) transplanted the devotional spirit from the South to Northern India, opening spiritual practice to all regardless of caste or gender.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** His legendary twelve chief disciples (Dwadash Mahanta) represented varied vocations and castes, reflecting his principle: Let no man ask a man's sect or caste.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Lalleshwari (Lal Ded) was a Kashmiri Shaivite mystic whose four-line verse compositions (Vakhs) laid the foundation of Kashmiri vernacular literature.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Ramcharitmanas was composed by Goswami Tulsidas, not Kabir. Furthermore, Kabir's hymns were held in high esteem and extensively incorporated into the Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Saint Guru Nanak Ji and the founding of Sikhism is/are correct?

1. Guru Nanak Ji was a preacher of Nirguna Bhakti who established the community kitchen system and composed the Japji Sahib.
2. Guru Nanak's Ji active preaching period coincided historically with the fall of the Lodi Dynasty and the advent of Babur in India.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Guru Nanak Ji preached faith in one formless God (Ik Onkar), composed Japji Sahib, and instituted Langar (free egalitarian community kitchen) to eliminate social divides. He laid down three core pillars: Naam Japna (remembrance of God), Kirat Karni (honest labor), and Vand Chakna (sharing with others).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Guru Nanak lived through the political shift from Sultan Ibrahim Lodi to Mughal Emperor Babur (1526 CE), vividly describing the conflict in his verses (Babarvani).

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Tulsidas and Surdas is/are correct?

1. Tulsidas composed the Ramcharitmanas in Awadhi and was a contemporary of Mughal Emperors Akbar and Jahangir.
2. Surdas was a blind poet associated with the Pushtimarg who composed Sursagar, Sur Saravali, and Sahitya Lahari in Brajbhasha.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Goswami Tulsidas (1532–1623 CE) authored Ramcharitmanas in the Awadhi dialect of Hindi during the reigns of Akbar and Jahangir. He also authored Vinay Patrika, Kavitaivali, and Gitavali.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Surdas (c. 1478–1583 CE), a disciple of Vallabhacharya, composed his major works (Sursagar, Sur Saravali, Sahitya Lahari) in Brajbhasha, depicting the childhood exploits (Bal-Lila) of Lord Krishna.

10. Which 15th–16th century Nirguna Bhakti saint, born into a cobbler family in Varanasi, rejected caste discrimination through his concept of an egalitarian society called "Begumpura" and has numerous verses preserved in the Guru Granth Sahib?

- (a) Saint Ravidas
- (b) Saint Dadu Dayal
- (c) Saint Malukdas
- (d) Saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Saint Ravidas (Raidas):** A prominent 15th–16th century Nirguna poet-saint and disciple of Ramananda. He envisioned an egalitarian, casteless, tax-free utopia termed Begumpura (a city without sorrow). Over 40 of his devotional hymns were selected and preserved in the Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib.

Bhakti Saints in Western India/Sufism

1. Which of the following statements regarding the Varkari saint-poets of Maharashtra are correct?

- 1. Jnaneshwar authored Jnanesvari, seminal commentary on the Bhagavad Gita in Marathi.
- 2. Janabai was Shudra maidservant in household of Sant Namdev who composed over 300 devotional abhangas.
- 3. Namdev was devotee of Vithoba whose devotional verses were incorporated into the Guru Granth Sahib.
- 4. Eknath rejected Bhagavata Purana and prohibited use of folk musical forms like Bharood in spiritual discourses.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sant Jnaneshwar authored the Jnanesvari (or Bhavartha Dipika), translating the philosophical core of the Bhagavad Gita into Marathi to make spiritual knowledge accessible to common people.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Janabai belonged to a low-caste family and worked as a maidservant in Sant Namdev's household, composing over 300 abhangas reflecting domestic life and intense devotion.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Sant Namdev centered his worship on Vithoba (Vitthal) of Pandharpur; his hymns traveled across North India, and 61 of his compositions were preserved in the Sikh scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Sant Eknath wrote extensive commentaries on the Bhagavata Purana (Eknathi Bhagavata) and pioneered the popular folk narrative genre known as Bharood to deliver moral and spiritual messages.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to spiritual figures of Western India is/are correct?

1. Tukaram was a 17th-century contemporary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, renowned for his devotional abhangas.
2. Ramdas authored the spiritual treatise Dasabodha and served as a moral guide to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
3. Sai Baba of Shirdi rejected the syncretic blending of Hindu and Islamic practices and insisted on rigid monastic isolation from householders.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sant Tukaram was a major Varkari poet-saint contemporary with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. His devotional poems (Abhangas) formed a cornerstone of popular Marathi spiritual literature.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Samarth Ramdas composed Dasabodha (a text dealing with practical devotion, statecraft, and social duty) and served as a spiritual mentor to Shivaji Maharaj.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Sai Baba of Shirdi lived in a mosque (Dwarkamai), harmonized Hindu and Islamic devotional practices, encouraged householders, and taught Shraddha (faith) and Saburi (patience).

3. Consider the following pairs:

Bhakti Saint	Regional Spiritual Role
1. Narsinh Mehta	Adikavi of Gujarat who composed the devotional hymn Vaishnava Jana To
2. Mirabai	Rajput princess and devout Krishna poetess belonging to the Mewar region
3. Dadu Dayal	Nirguna saint who established the Dadupanth order in Rajasthan

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Narsinh Mehta (15th century) is regarded as the Adikavi (first poet) of Gujarati literature and authored the famous hymn Vaishnava Jana To Tene Kahiye Peed Paraye Jane Re.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Mirabai (16th century) was a prominent Saguna Krishna Bhakti saint, daughter-in-law of Rana Sanga of Mewar, who composed passionate devotional lyrics in Rajasthani/Brajhasha.

- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** Dadu Dayal was a Nirguna Bhakti saint who founded the Dadupanth sect centered in Rajasthan (Narayana), promoting non-sectarian worship (Nirapaksh).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is/are correct?

1. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu popularized Sankirtan as primary mode of devotion to Lord Krishna in Bengal.
2. Propounded philosophy of Achintya Bheda Abheda, which posits that the individual soul is simultaneously one with and different from God in an incomprehensible manner.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Chaitanya Mahaprabhu founded Gaudiya Vaishnavism and introduced public Sankirtan (processional chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra) across Bengal and Odisha.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** His theological doctrine, Achintya Bheda Abheda (Inconceivable Inseparable Oneness and Difference), synthesizes dualism (Dvaita) and non-dualism (Advaita), stating that the creation is both non-different from and distinct from the Supreme Being.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the regional Bhakti movement in Eastern India are correct?

1. Sankaradeva propagated Ekasarana Dharma in Assam, establishing monastic institutions called Sattras.
2. Guru Ghasi Das founded the Satnami community in Chhattisgarh to oppose caste hierarchies and idol worship.
3. Jayadeva was the court poet of King Lakshmana Sena of Bengal who composed the Gita Govinda.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (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 is correct:** Srimanta Sankaradeva introduced Ekasarana Nam Dharma in Assam, establishing community prayer halls (Namghars) and monasteries (Sattras), and writing Ankiya Naat plays in the Brajavali language.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Guru Ghasi Das founded the Satnami movement in Chhattisgarh, advocating Nirguna worship, social equality, and rejection of caste and idol worship.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Jayadeva (12th century) served as a court poet under the Sena ruler Lakshmana Sena and authored the Sanskrit lyrical masterpiece Gita Govinda.

6. Consider the following pairs:

Sufi Concept	Meaning
1. Wahdat-ul-Wajood	Doctrine of Unity of Being, asserting that God and His creation are inseparable

2. Sama	Spiritual musical congregations organized to induce transcendental ecstasy
3. Khanqah	Residential hospice and center for spiritual learning and preaching

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** Wahdat-ul-Wajood (popularized by Ibn Arabi) is the mystical concept holding that God is the sole true reality and all creation reflects His existence.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** Sama refers to devotional music performances (such as Qawwali) used by orders like the Chishtis to evoke divine love and ecstasy.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** A Khanqah served as a hospice, retreat, and educational center where Sufi masters (Sheikhs or Pirs) instructed disciples (Murids) and served the public.

7. In the historical development of Sufism, consider the following pairs:

Evolutionary Phase	Key Institutional Feature
1. Khanqah Stage	Period of early asceticism and individual master-disciple circles
2. Tariqa Stage	Systematization of orders, lineage chains (Silsilahs), and institutional rules
3. Tarifa Stage	Transformation of orders into popular cultic veneration at shrines

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

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The Khanqah Stage (10th century) represented the early phase where individual mystics gathered around local masters in simple hospices.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** The Tariqa Stage (11th–14th centuries) saw the formalization of distinct Sufi orders (Silsilahs), spiritual chains of authority, and structured codes of discipline.
- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** The Tarifa Stage (15th century) marked the widespread popularization of Sufism, centered around shrine pilgrimage (Ziyarat) and hereditary sainthood (Dargahs).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Sufi orders in India is/are correct?

1. Ba-shara orders explicitly adhered to Islamic jurisprudence, with major examples being the Chishti and Suhrawardi silsilahs.
2. Be-shara orders rejected formal legalistic codes, living as wandering ascetics.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ba-shara orders strictly observed Islamic legal obligations (Sharia) alongside mystical practices. Major Ba-shara orders in India included the Chishti, Suhrawardi, Qadiri, and Naqshbandi.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Be-shara orders did not bind themselves to formal legalistic rituals, with practitioners living as itinerant ascetics (Qalandars, Madaris, Rishis).

9. Which of the following statements regarding the major Sufi silsilahs in India are correct?

1. Chishti order, established in India by Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti, emphasized austerity, rejected state patronage, and adopted the local Hindawi language.
2. Suhrawardi order accepted imperial land grants and official court appointments.
3. Naqshbandi order, championed by Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi, strongly opposed music and rejected heterodox or syncretic practices.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (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 is correct:** The Chishti order (founded in India by Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti at Ajmer) shunned political court posts, practiced voluntary poverty, used local Hindawi for communication, and encouraged musical assemblies (Sama).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike the Chishtis, the Suhrawardis (introduced by Bahauddin Zakariya in Punjab and Sindh) accepted state patronage, accumulated property, and held judicial/state appointments under the Delhi Sultanate.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Naqshbandi order (promoted by Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi) was orthopraxic, rejected Sama, and actively opposed the syncretic policies of Akbar's court, advocating a return to strict Islamic traditions.

10. Which of the following statements regarding Sufi orders in medieval India are correct?

1. Qadiriya order supported the doctrine of Wahdat-ul-Wajood and counted Mughal Prince Dara Shikoh among its followers.
2. Shattari order incorporated yogic breathing techniques and posture exercises into its mystical discipline.
3. Firdausia order flourished primarily as an influential regional branch in Bihar.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (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 is correct:** The Qadiriya order (associated with saint Miyan Mir) endorsed Wahdat-ul-Wajood; Prince Dara Shikoh was a follower of this order and authored texts bridging Hindu and Islamic mystical traditions (Majma-ul-Bahrain).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Shattari order (established by Sheikh Sirajuddin Abdullah Shattar and associated with musician Tansen) actively assimilated Hindu yogic practices and meditative techniques.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Firdausia order (a branch of the Kubrawiya order, prominent through Sheikh Sharfuddin Yahya Maneri) developed as a major regional Sufi lineage centered in Bihar.

Delhi Sultanate, Slave Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements regarding early medieval Islamic invasions in India are correct?

1. Sindh conquest under Qasim led to the immediate establishment of a pan-Indian empire that extended across Northern India.
2. Ghazni conducted military raids primarily to replenish his central treasury and assert sovereign authority, during which Al-Biruni accompanied him to India.
3. Ghori's campaigns aimed at creating garrison towns and permanent territorial rule, laying the foundation for Turkish rule after the Second Battle of Tarain.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Arab conquest of Sindh under Muhammad Bin Qasim remained localized in the lower Indus valley. It did not create a pan-Indian empire; its territorial expansion paused for nearly three centuries, leading historians to describe it as a triumph without results.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Mahmud of Ghazni led 17 expeditions into India to plunder wealthy temple cities (e.g., Somnath, Mathura, Kannauj) to finance his Central Asian empire and pay his professional army. The Persian scholar Al-Biruni accompanied his forces, studied Sanskrit, and authored the Kitab-ul-Hind.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Unlike Ghazni, Muhammad Ghori sought permanent territorial annexation. His victory over Prithviraj Chauhan III at the Second Battle of Tarain established Turkish political control in North India, which was consolidated by his deputy Qutb-ud-din Aibak.

2. Which one of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the ruling dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate, starting from the earliest?

- (a) Mamluk Dynasty Tughlaq Dynasty Khalji Dynasty Sayyid Dynasty Lodi Dynasty
- (b) Mamluk Dynasty Khalji Dynasty Tughlaq Dynasty Sayyid Dynasty Lodi Dynasty
- (c) Khalji Dynasty Mamluk Dynasty Tughlaq Dynasty Lodi Dynasty Sayyid Dynasty
- (d) Mamluk Dynasty Tughlaq Dynasty Sayyid Dynasty Khalji Dynasty Lodi Dynasty

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The correct chronological order of the five ruling dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate is:

1. Mamluk / Slave Dynasty.
2. Khalji Dynasty.
3. Tughlaq Dynasty.
4. Sayyid Dynasty.
5. Lodi Dynasty.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Qutb-ud-din Aibak is/are correct?

1. Qutb-ud-din Aibak established Mamluk Dynasty with Lahore as his initial capital and earned the title Lakh Baksh for his generous benefactions.
2. He successfully completed the construction of all five storeys of the Qutb Minar during his four-year reign.
3. Bakhtiyar Khalji, led campaigns into Eastern India that destroyed the monastic universities of Nalanda and Vikramshila.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Qutb-ud-din Aibak ruled from Lahore. His open-handed charity earned him the title Lakh Baksh (Giver of Lakhs).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Aibak initiated the construction of the Qutb Minar (completing only its basement/first storey). It was his successor Iltutmish who added three more storeys, while Firuz Shah Tughlaq later repaired and added the fifth storey.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Ikhtiyar-ud-din Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji, Aibak's general, raided Bihar and Bengal, destroying major Buddhist monastic institutions including Nalanda, Vikramshila, and Odantapuri.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the administration of Shams-ud-din Iltutmish are correct?

1. Iltutmish shifted capital of from Lahore to Delhi and received a formal investiture from the Caliph of Baghdad.
2. He organized the Turkan-e-Chihalgani, an elite corps of Turkish military slaves to consolidate central control.
3. He introduced standard coinage consisting of the silver Tanka and copper Jital.
4. He turned back Chengiz Khan's Mongol forces by offering asylum to the Khwarazmian prince Jalal-ud-din Mangbarni.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Iltutmish permanently made Delhi the imperial capital. Caliph Al-Mustansir of Baghdad sent a patent of investiture legitimizing his rule.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To curb rebellious provincial governors, Iltutmish formed the Turkan-e-Chihalgani (a council of forty loyal Turkish slave-officers).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** He standardized Sultanate currency by introducing the pure Arabic-style silver Tanka (175 grains) and copper Jital.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Iltutmish refused shelter to Jalal-ud-din Mangbarni (who was fleeing Chengiz Khan). This diplomatic foresight prevented Chengiz Khan from invading the Delhi Sultanate.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Raziya Sultana is/are correct?

1. Raziya Sultana was nominated as successor by her father Iltutmish and became the first female sovereign ruler of the Delhi Sultanate.
2. She maintained political harmony by appointing leading Turkish noblemen to all high military commands while strictly retaining female court seclusion.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Iltutmish nominated his daughter Raziya over his sons. She ascended the throne as the first and only woman monarch of the Delhi Sultanate.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Raziya abandoned traditional seclusion (purdah), wore male attire (coat and turban), held open court, and rode horseback in public. Furthermore, her promotion of non-Turkish officers (such as the Abyssinian Jalal-ud-din Yaqut) alienated the conservative Turkish nobility (Chihalgani), triggering rebellions against her.

6. With reference to the political policies and court protocols under Ghiyas-ud-din Balban, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Adopted a Blood and Iron policy to restore internal order, dismantle power of the Turkan-e-Chihalgani, and defend frontiers against Mongol raids.
2. Created an independent military department named Diwan-i-Arz to maintain a disciplined standing army.
3. Proclaimed the doctrine of divine kingship, styling himself Zill-e-Ilahi and introduced court rituals like Sijda and Paibos.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Balban enforced a ruthless Blood and Iron policy to eradicate bandits, suppress rebellious rajas, break the influence of the Chihalgani nobles (of which he was once a member), and fortify the northwestern frontier against Mongols.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** He separated military administration from finance by creating the Diwan-i-Arz (Military Department), headed by an Ariz-i-Mamalik, to maintain troop readiness.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** To elevate royal prestige, he claimed descent from the mythical Persian hero Afrasiyab, assumed the title Zill-e-Ilahi (Shadow of God), and instituted Persian court ceremonies: Sijda (prostration), Paibos (feet-kissing), and the Nauroz festival.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to administrative arrangements under the Slave Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Empire was divided into Iqtas, governed by Muqtis or Walis responsible for maintaining local law, collecting land revenue, and maintaining troops.
2. Iqta system introduced by Iltutmish was made hereditary from its inception, giving governors permanent private ownership over assigned lands.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sultanate was partitioned into Iqtas (revenue assignments). The assignees (Muqtis or Walis) collected revenue, remitted the balance surplus (fawazil) to the central treasury, and maintained military contingents for imperial service.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Initially, Iqtas were transferable, non-hereditary administrative assignments, not private hereditary properties. (They became hereditary much later under the reign of Firuz Shah Tughlaq in the 14th century).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to economy and technology under the early Delhi Sultanate is/are correct?

1. Land revenue collection began transitioning toward cash assessments, which stimulated urban market trade and monetization.
2. Period witnessed technological developments, including the introduction of paper-making and the spinning wheel, which significantly increased yarn output.
3. Rise of the Chishti order in Delhi and the Suhrawardi order in Multan occurred during this administrative era.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (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 is correct:** The consolidation of the Sultanate facilitated cash revenue demands (Kharaj), compelling farmers to sell produce in urban markets and boosting urban market networks.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 13th and 14th centuries brought key technological innovations: paper-manufacturing technology and the spinning wheel (charkha), which enhanced textile production efficiency.

- **Statement 3 is correct:** This period coincided with the institutional expansion of major Sufi orders (Silsilahs): the Chishti order in Delhi and Ajmer (Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti, Nizamuddin Auliya) and the Suhrawardi order in Punjab and Sindh (Bahauddin Zakariya).

9. Consider the following pairs:

Monument	Location	Structural Feature
1. Tomb of Balban	Delhi	Contains the earliest surviving structural true arch in India
2. Adhai Din Ka Jhopra	Ajmer	Features a seven-arched screen wall and pillared hall converted from a Sanskrit college
3. Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque	Delhi	Reused carved stone pillars from dismantled Hindu and Jain temples using corbelled arches

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** The Tomb of Balban (located in the Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Delhi) is historically significant as the first structure in India built using a true Voussoir arch rather than corbelled construction.
- **Row 2:** Adhai Din Ka Jhopra at Ajmer was constructed by Qutb-ud-din Aibak on the ruins of a Sanskrit college (Sarasvati Kanthabharana), featuring an expansive screen wall carved with Quranic calligraphy and yellow limestone pillars.
- **Row 3:** Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque (inside the Qutb Complex, Delhi) was constructed using architectural spoils from 27 demolished temples, displaying early hybrid Indo-Islamic features with corbelled arches and shallow domes.

10. Which of the following statements regarding the Qutb Minar and its surrounding complex are correct?

1. Qutb Minar is a 243-foot victory tower constructed primarily of red and buff sandstone.
2. Shams-ud-din Iltutmish added three storeys to the tower, while subsequent repairs and upper storeys were added by Firuz Shah Tughlaq and Sikandar Lodi.
3. Famous rust-resistant Iron Pillar situated within the Qutb Complex belongs to the Gupta period.
4. Ala'i Darwaza, located within the complex, was built by Qutb-ud-din Aibak to serve as the chief northern entry gate.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Qutb Minar (designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993) stands at ~72.5 meters (~238–243 ft), constructed with red and buff sandstone featuring fluted shafts and bands of Arabic and Nagari inscriptions.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Initiated by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, the tower's main structure was built by Iltutmish. After lightning struck the top storey, Firuz Shah Tughlaq repaired it and added two storeys using white marble and sandstone; further repairs were made by Sikandar Lodi.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The non-rusting Iron Pillar of Delhi inside the court of Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque bears a Sanskrit inscription in Brahmi script dedicated to King Chandra (identified with Chandragupta II Vikramaditya of the Gupta Empire).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Ala'i Darwaza was built much later by Alauddin Khalji. It is famous for its true dome and horseshoe arch.

Khilji and Tughlaq Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements regarding the foundation of the Khalji Dynasty and the reign of Jalal-ud-din Khalji are correct?

1. Jalal-ud-din Khalji established the dynasty after assassinating Kaiqubad.
2. Jalal-ud-din Khalji ended the Turkish aristocratic monopoly over high administrative offices.
3. Jalal-ud-din Khalji established his new imperial capital at Kilokhri near Delhi.
4. Jalal-ud-din Khalji peacefully abdicated the throne in favor of his nephew Ala-ud-din Khalji.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 1290, Jalal-ud-din Firuz Khalji overthrew the last Mamluk ruler, Kaiqubad, ending the Slave Dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Khalji Revolution ended the exclusive monopoly of Ilbari Turks over high administrative and military positions, incorporating non-Turks and Indian Muslims (Deshis) into governance.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Due to initial hostility from the old nobility in Delhi, Jalal-ud-din crowned himself and ruled from Kilokhri (Kilu Ghari).
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Jalal-ud-din did not peacefully abdicate; he was assassinated by his nephew and son-in-law, Ala-ud-din Khalji, at Kara in 1296.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Ala-ud-din Khalji's military campaigns is/are correct?

1. Ala-ud-din Khalji assumed the imperial title Sikander-i-Sani.
2. Malik Kafur led the Sultanate forces into South India, defeating the Kakatiyas, Hoysalas, and Pandyas.
3. To defend against Mongol sieges, Ala-ud-din constructed the fortified city of Siri and created a permanent standing army.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (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 is correct:** Ala-ud-din Khalji assumed the title Sikander-i-Sani (Second Alexander) and struck it on his coinage.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Malik Kafur (Hazardinari) led military expeditions into the Deccan and South India, forcing Prataparudra II (Kakatiya), Vira Ballala III (Hoysala), and the Pandyas to accept tributary vassalage.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Following the severe Mongol siege of Delhi by Targhi in 1303, Ala-ud-din built the circular garrison city of Siri and maintained a centrally paid standing army.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Ala-ud-din Khalji's administrative reforms are correct?

1. Ala-ud-din Khalji instituted the system of Dagh and Chehra.
2. Price regulations across grain and cloth markets were overseen by officers designated as Shahna-i-mandi and Diwan-i-Riyasat.
3. Ala-ud-din Khalji revived the hereditary cesses of village headmen to gain rural administrative support.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ala-ud-din introduced Dagh (branding cavalry horses to prevent fraud) and Chehra / Huliya (registering soldier identities) to enforce military discipline.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He established regulated markets under the charge of a Shahna-i-mandi (market superintendent) and controlled prices through the Diwan-i-Riyasat (Ministry of Commerce).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Ala-ud-din abolished the customary tax-free privileges and cesses (Kismati-Khuti) enjoyed by traditional village headmen (Khots, Chaudhurs, Muqaddams), forcing them to pay the same land and pasture taxes as ordinary cultivators.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the land revenue administration of Ala-ud-din Khalji are correct?

1. Ala-ud-din Khalji was the first Delhi Sultan to enforce land measurement using the Biswa as the standard unit.
2. The state land revenue demand was fixed at 50% of the gross agricultural produce.
3. House tax and pasture tax were abolished across the empire to relieve peasant debt.
4. Secret intelligence agents called Munhiyans reported directly to the Sultan on market prices and official corruption.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ala-ud-din introduced scientific land assessment by measuring actual cultivated area (Misahat) based on the Biswa unit.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He raised the state agrarian demand (Kharaj) to 50% of produce, payable in cash or kind.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** He did not abolish them; rather, he introduced two new direct taxes: Ghari (house tax) and Chari (pasture tax on milch cattle).
- **Statement 4 is correct:** He established a network of spies (Munhiyans) and intelligence officers (Barids) to monitor market prices, revenue collections, and court intrigue.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Khalji architectural structures is/are correct?

1. Ala'i Darwaza served as the entrance gateway to the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque and incorporated a true dome built with red sandstone and white marble inlay.
2. Garrison city of Siri was constructed entirely out of mud-bricks by Iltutmish to house refugees fleeing the Mongol invasion of Persia.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Built in 1311 by Ala-ud-din Khalji, the Ala'i Darwaza is the entrance portal to the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque. It features a true dome, decorative horseshoe arches, and red sandstone and white marble facing.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Siri Fort was constructed by Ala-ud-din Khalji (1303), not Iltutmish, as a stone-fortified military city to protect Delhi from Mongol sieges.

6. The adoption of the Seljuk architectural style, prominent arcaded arches, mortar masonry, and red sandstone facings was first introduced into North India under which medieval ruling lineage?

- (a) Mamluk Dynasty
(b) Khalji Dynasty
(c) Tughlaq Dynasty
(d) Lodi Dynasty

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- The Khalji Dynasty marked the stylistic arrival of true Seljuk Indo-Islamic architectural features in Northern India, characterized by decorative masonry, red sandstone facing, true domes, horseshoe arches (arcaded style), and extensive use of lime mortar.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to court literature during the Khalji era is/are correct?

1. Amir Khusrau served as the court poet of Ala-ud-din Khalji and authored the historical work Khazain-ul-Futuh.

2. Malik Muhammad Jayasi composed the epic poem Padmavat during the reign of Ala-ud-din Khalji to chronicle the Siege of Chittor in real time.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Amir Khusrau (Tuti-i-Hind) was patronized by Ala-ud-din Khalji. He wrote Khazain-ul-Futuh (Tarikh-i-Alai), detailing Ala-ud-din's military conquests in Rajasthan and the Deccan.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Malik Muhammad Jayasi wrote the Sufi allegoric poem Padmavat around 1540 under the patronage of Sher Shah Suri—more than two centuries after Ala-ud-din Khalji's death (1316).

8. With reference to Indian history, consider the following statements:

- 1. First Mongol invasion of India occurred during the reign of Jalal-ud-din Khalji.
- 2. During the reign of Ala-ud-din Khalji, one Mongol assault marched up to Delhi and besieged the city.
- 3. Muhammad bin Tughlaq temporarily lost portions of the north-west of his kingdom to the Mongols.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The first Mongol incursions into the Indian frontier occurred much earlier under Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (1221, when Chengiz Khan reached the Indus pursuit of Jalaluddin Mangbarani).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In 1303, a Mongol army under Targhi marched into Delhi and besieged the capital, forcing Ala-ud-din Khalji to take shelter in the Siri fortress.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Muhammad bin Tughlaq did not lose the north-west to the Mongols; he successfully repulsed the invasion led by Tarmashirin (1327) and chased the retreating forces across the Indus toward Transoxiana.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq is/are correct?

- 1. Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq belonged to the Qarauna tribe of Turks and founded the Tughlaq Dynasty in 1320 CE.
- 2. He became the first Delhi Sultan to construct canal systems for agricultural irrigation.
- 3. He constructed the stone fortress-city of Tughlaqabad to defend against external raids.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (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 is correct:** Ghazi Malik (Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq), a Qarauna Turk, overthrew Khusrau Khan in 1320 CE to establish the Tughlaq Dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq was the first Delhi Sultan to initiate public canal building and irrigation works to encourage agriculture and reduce agrarian distress.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** He constructed the massive stone-fortified city and citadel of **Tughlaqabad** near Delhi as his imperial seat.

10. With reference to the economic history of medieval India, the term Araghatta refers to:

- (a) A system of bonded agricultural labor enforced in royal lands
- (b) A tax-free land grant assigned to military commanders
- (c) A Persian waterwheel mechanism used for field irrigation
- (d) Uncultivated wasteland reclaimed for cash-crop farming

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- The term Araghatta (or Ghati-yantra) refers to the traditional waterwheel mechanism (incorporating a geared wheel, rope, and pots) driven by bullocks to lift water from wells for land irrigation. It saw widespread adoption across Northern and Western India during the early medieval period.

Tughlaq Dynasty

1. Which of the following statements with regard to Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq is/are correct?

- 1. Belonged to the Qarauna tribe of Turks and established the Tughlaq Dynasty in 1320.
- 2. He was the first Sultan of Delhi to initiate canal construction for agricultural irrigation.
- 3. Constructed the stone fortress-city of Tughlaqabad as his sovereign seat.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (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 is correct:** Ghazi Malik (Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq) belonged to the Qarauna Turk tribe. He defeated Khusrau Khan in 1320 to establish the Tughlaq Dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq was the first ruler of the Delhi Sultanate to construct irrigation canals to assist farmers and boost agrarian output.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** He commissioned the stone-built, fortified city of Tughlaqabad near Delhi to serve as his capital and defense post against external invasions.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Muhammad bin Tughlaq are correct?

- 1. Reversed the orthodox religious isolation policies by patronizing Jain scholars such as Jinaprabha Suri and participating in public Hindu festivals like Holi.

2. Established the Diwan-i-Amir Kohi, a dedicated agricultural department, to disburse emergency crop loans to peasants during droughts.
3. His token currency experiment succeeded in centralizing state revenue and completely eliminated market counterfeiting across North India.
4. Moroccan traveler Ibn Battuta visited India during his reign and was appointed as a state envoy to the Yuan Dynasty in China.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Muhammad bin Tughlaq adopted an inclusive socio-religious policy; he was the first Sultan to celebrate Holi publicly and granted land for Jain rest-houses (Upasrayas) to scholar Jinaprabha Suri.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To reform agriculture, he created the Diwan-i-Amir Kohi department, which issued direct agricultural loans (Takkavi / Sondhar) for seed, stock, and well-digging.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** His token currency experiment (issuing brass/copper coins with the value of silver Tankas) failed catastrophically due to widespread private counterfeiting because the mints lacked security marks. He eventually withdrew the coins and exchanged them for genuine silver bullion from the treasury.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Ibn Battuta arrived in Delhi in 1333, served as Chief Qadi (judge) for several years, and was later dispatched by the Sultan as an official diplomatic ambassador to China.

3. Which of the following statements regarding territorial events during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq is/are correct?

1. Mongol leader Tarmashirin invaded Northern India and permanently annexed the Punjab region from the Tughlaq Empire.
2. Vijayanagara Empire and the Bahmani Kingdom emerged as independent regional polities during his reign.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Tarmashirin invaded around 1327. He was successfully repulsed or bought off by Muhammad bin Tughlaq, who then chased the retreating forces across the Indus. The Mongols failed to annex Punjab.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Extreme central taxation, administrative strain, and widespread provincial revolts under MBT led directly to the breakaway of southern provinces, giving rise to independent kingdoms: the Vijayanagara Empire under Harihara and Bukka (1336) and the Bahmani Sultanate under Ala-ud-din Bahman Shah / Hasan Gangu (1347).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to Firuz Shah Tughlaq are correct?

1. Made the Iqta system and military offices hereditary, replacing cash salaries for soldiers with land revenue assignments.
2. Established the charity department Diwan-i-Khairat, the slave department Diwan-i-Bandagan, and the free public hospital Dar-ul-Shafa.
3. He abolished the Jizya tax on non-Muslim subjects to establish administrative equality across urban centers.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** To appease military commanders and noble families, Firuz Shah made army posts and Iqta land grants hereditary, switching back to land assignments (Wajah) instead of direct cash salaries.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He was known for social welfare statecraft, founding Diwan-i-Khairat (to fund poor marriages/orphans), Diwan-i-Bandagan (to manage over 180,000 royal slaves), and Dar-ul-Shafa (a free hospital in Delhi).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** He strictly enforced it in consultation with the Ulema and, for the first time in Sultanate history, imposed Jizya as a separate tax on Brahmins (who had previously been exempt).

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the territorial hierarchy under the Delhi Sultanate is/are correct?

1. Imperial territory was divided sequentially into Suba (province), Sarkar (district), and Pargana (sub-district cluster of villages).
2. Provincial governors (Muqtis or Walis) were prohibited from maintaining local armed troops, relying entirely on royal regiments dispatched from Delhi.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The provincial structure followed a clear descending territorial hierarchy: Suba (Province) Sarkar (District) Pargana (Sub-district/cluster of villages) Grama (Village).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Muqtis or Walis were required to collect land revenue from their assigned Iqtas, pay their administrative staff, and maintain an armed military contingent (fauj) to be supplied to the Sultan during imperial campaigns.

6. Consider the following information regarding revenue administrative officers during the Delhi Sultanate:

Official	Administrative Unit	Duty
1. Amil	Pargana / District level	Officer responsible for land revenue collection

2. Muqaddam	Village level	Executive village headman who assisted in tax collection
3. Patwari	Village level	Accountant responsible for maintaining village land and crop records
4. Khut	Rural locality	Hereditary landholder and village revenue intermediary

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** The Amil (or Amalguzar) was the state revenue collection officer stationed at the Pargana/Sarkar level.
- **Row 2:** The Muqaddam served as the traditional headman of the village, facilitating tax collection.
- **Row 3:** The Patwari maintained village land records, crop yields, and individual peasant tax obligations.
- **Row 4:** The Khuts were wealthy, hereditary rural landlords who acted as intermediaries between the peasantry and state collectors.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to fiscal levies and society during the Tughlaq period are correct?

1. Kharaj was the agricultural land tax, while Khams represented the state's share of war booty.
2. Firuz Shah Tughlaq introduced Haqq-i-Sharb, a dedicated 10% irrigation tax on lands watered by state-built canals.
3. The number of state-owned slaves reached its historical zenith during the reign of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kharaj was the standard land tax levied on agricultural produce; Khams was the state's share of war plunder (fixed at 1/5th by Islamic law, though some Sultans took 4/5ths).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** After building extensive canal networks, Firuz Shah Tughlaq secured approval from the Ulema to levy Haqq-i-Sharb (a 10% water tax) on farmers utilizing water from state canals.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** State slavery reached its peak under Firuz Shah Tughlaq (who maintained over 180,000 slaves managed by the Diwan-i-Bandagan).

8. Which of the following statements with regard to Tughlaq architectural traditions are correct?

1. Tughlaq architecture preferred heavy grey sandstone and emphasized structural strength over elaborate decorative carvings.
2. Tomb of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq introduced sloping walls to impart an impression of massive stability.

3. Entrance designs under the Tughlaqs relied exclusively on corbelled brick arches, completely rejecting lintels and true arches.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Facing financial constraints and military threats, Tughlaq structures used cheap grey quartzite/sandstone and thick rubble-plastered walls, focusing on austerity, utility, and fortress-like strength rather than elaborate stone carving.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Tomb of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq at Tughlaqabad introduced sloping walls (batter), angled inwards to create an illusion of height and structural stability.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Tughlaq architecture is noted for combining both the arch and the lintel (trabeate and arcuate forms together) in doorway designs, rather than rejecting lintels or true arches.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to literary works of the Tughlaq period is/are correct?

1. Firuz Shah Tughlaq authored his own historical memoirs titled Futuhat-e-Firuzshahi.
2. Ziauddin Barani composed the Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, providing a key historical account of the Delhi Sultanate up to the early reign of Firuz Shah Tughlaq.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sultan Firuz Shah Tughlaq wrote a short autobiographical brochure titled Futuhat-e-Firuzshahi to record his public works, religious policies, and administrative measures.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The court historian Ziauddin Barani authored Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi (and Fatwa-i-Jahandari), offering a detailed political chronicle of the Sultanate from Balban's reign through the rise of Firuz Shah Tughlaq.

10. Consider the following information regarding literary texts composed during the Tughlaq Dynasty:

Literary Work	Author	Description
1. Tughlaq Nama	Amir Khusrau	Poetic chronicle detailing Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq's rise to power
2. Futuh-us-Salatin	Abdul Malik Isami	Versified history of Muslim rule in India from the Ghaznavids to MBT
3. Safarnama (Rihla)	Ibn Battuta	Travelogue documenting social, economic, and court life under MBT

4. Rag Darpan	Translated text	Sanskrit treatise on classical Indian music translated into Persian
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In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Row 1:** Tughlaq Nama was Amir Khusrau's last historic mathnavi, describing Ghazi Malik's campaign against Khusrau Khan and his coronation as Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq.
- **Row 2:** Futuh-us-Salatin (composed by Isami in 1350) provides an independent poetic history of the Delhi Sultans and offers a critical perspective on Muhammad bin Tughlaq's reign.
- **Row 3:** Rihla (Safarnama) by Ibn Battuta gives firsthand accounts of urban markets, postal networks (Ulukh and Dawa), administrative punishments, and court customs under MBT.
- **Row 4:** Rag Darpan was an authoritative Sanskrit musical manual translated into Persian under the patronage of Firuz Shah Tughlaq, promoting cross-cultural artistic exchange.

Sayyid and Lodi Dynasty

1. With reference to Indian history, who of the following were known as "Kulah-Daran"?

- (a) Arab merchants
- (b) Qalandars
- (c) Persian calligraphists
- (d) Sayyids

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- The term Kulah-Daran (wearers of pointed caps) referred to the Sayyids, who claimed direct lineage from the Prophet Muhammad.
- During the Delhi Sultanate period, particularly under the Sayyid Dynasty (1414–1451), Sayyids held high religious and political status and wore a distinctive pointed cap (Kulah) as a symbol of their sacred lineage and authority.

2. Which of the following statements regarding the Sayyid Dynasty are correct?

1. Khizr Khan founded the dynasty as a vassal appointee of Timur and struck coins bearing Timur's name.
2. Primary contemporary historical record for the Sayyid Dynasty is the Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi, authored by Yahya bin Ahmad Sirhindi.
3. Alam Shah expanded the empire up to Bengal and Bihar through extensive military conquests against the Sharqi rulers.
4. Rulers of the Sayyid Dynasty were known as Kulah-Daran due to their distinctive pointed headgear.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Khizr Khan (1414–1421) was appointed governor of Multan by Timur. He founded the Sayyid Dynasty as a Timurid vassal and issued coins bearing the name of Timur (and later his successor Shah Rukh).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi, written by Yahya bin Ahmad Sirhindi, is the sole contemporary historical chronicle dedicated to the Sayyid era.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Alam Shah did not expand the empire; he was a weak ruler who voluntarily abdicated the throne in 1451 and retired to Badaun, handing power over to Bahlol Lodi.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** As claimants to the lineage of the Prophet Muhammad, Sayyid rulers and scholars wore the Kulah (pointed cap) and were designated as Kulah-Daran.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to Bahlol Lodi is/are correct?

1. Bahlol Lodi established the Lodi Dynasty, marking the foundation of the First Afghan Empire in India.
2. Treated Afghan tribal chiefs as equal partners rather than subordinate subjects to secure their support.
3. Conquered the Sharqi Kingdom of Jaunpur and incorporated it into the Delhi Sultanate.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bahlol Lodi (1451–1489) overthrew the Sayyids and established the First Afghan Dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bahlol Lodi adopted a tribal Afghan theory of kingship (primus inter pares—first among equals). He sat on carpets alongside his nobles rather than on an elevated throne, calling them Masnad-i-Ali.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** His major military achievement was the annexation of the powerful Sharqi Kingdom of Jaunpur, ending a century-old regional conflict.

4. Which of the following statements regarding Sikandar Lodi are correct?

1. Founded the city of Agra in 1504 and later shifted his imperial capital there.
2. Introduced a standardized land measurement unit named Gazz-i-Sikandari.
3. Maintained his father's policy of Afghan equality, refusing to audit state revenue accounts or hold formal court.
4. Reimposed Jizya on non-Muslim subjects and abolished the Zakat tax on grain.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sikandar Lodi (1489–1517) founded Agra in 1504 to better control the trade routes and curb Rajput chieftains, making it his capital in 1506.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He introduced a standardized measuring rod, the Gazz-i-Sikandari (32 digits), which remained the standard land measurement unit well into the Mughal period.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Unlike Bahlol Lodi, Sikandar Lodi asserted royal absolutism. He compelled nobles to stand in his presence, established a strict court protocol, created a network of spies, and instituted regular audits of provincial accounts.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** He was an orthodox ruler who reimposed Jizya, abolished the Zakat tax on grain imports to reduce food prices, and destroyed temples at Mathura and Nagarkot.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to Ibrahim Lodi is/are correct?

1. His aggressive centralization and humiliation of senior Afghan nobles led Daulat Khan Lodi to invite Babur to invade India.
2. He successfully repulsed Zahir-ud-din Muhammad forces, securing Lodi rule for another half century.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ibrahim Lodi (1517–1526) attempted to enforce absolute royal authority over his Afghan nobles, imprisoning and executing key commanders. Alienated by this, Daulat Khan Lodi (governor of Punjab) and Alam Khan invited Babur to overthrow him.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Ibrahim Lodi was defeated and killed by Babur at the First Battle of Panipat on April 21, 1526, marking the end of the Delhi Sultanate and the advent of the Mughal Empire.

6. Which of the following statements with regard to Lodi-era architecture are correct?

1. Lodi architecture introduced structural use of double domes in tomb construction, seen in the Tomb of Sikandar Lodi.
2. Period is noted for both octagonal tomb layouts and square tomb plans.
3. Lodi architects abandoned the use of mortar and lime cement, relying on dry-stone interlocking masonry.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Lodi phase introduced the double dome technique (an inner dome for aesthetic interior proportions and an outer dome for exterior elevation), prominently seen in the Tomb of Sikandar Lodi inside Lodi Gardens, Delhi.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Lodi tombs followed two distinct plans: octagonal plans reserved for royal monarchs (e.g., Sikandar Lodi's tomb) and square plans built for noble commanders (e.g., Shish Gumbad, Bara Gumbad).

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Lodi architecture relied heavily on lime mortar and cement, along with grey and yellow sandstone, stucco ornamentation, and chhatris.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to art and musical culture under the Lodi Dynasty is/are correct?

1. Lodi decorative artwork features extensive naturalistic paintings depicting human and animal forms on tomb walls.
2. Musical instruments such as the Rabab and Sarangi were utilized in Sufi Sama gatherings during this period.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** In accordance with orthodox Islamic decorative conventions, Lodi architectural ornamentation strictly avoided human and animal figures, focusing instead on geometric patterns, calligraphic Quranic inscriptions (Arabesque), and stylized floral motifs.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Sufi musical assemblies (Sama) flourished during this era, incorporating string instruments like the Rabab and Sarangi alongside vocal compositions.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to literature during the Lodi period is/are correct?

1. Sultan Sikandar Lodi was a scholar and poet who composed Persian verses under the pen name Gulrakhi.
2. Vernacular languages completely replaced Sanskrit as the medium for high philosophical and legal treatises during the Lodi era.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sikandar Lodi was a patron of learning and a poet who wrote Persian ghazals under the nom de plume Gulrakhi (Rose-faced).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sanskrit remained an active language for high intellectual thought, philosophy, and legal commentaries alongside Persian during this period; it was not completely replaced by regional vernaculars.

9. With reference to medieval India, which one of the following is the correct sequence in ascending order (smallest to largest) in terms of administrative size?

- (a) Paragana Sarkar Suba
- (b) Sarkar Paragana Suba
- (c) Suba Sarkar Paragana
- (d) Paragana Suba Sarkar

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The territorial administrative hierarchy in medieval India (Sultanate and Mughal eras) in **ascending order** of size is:

1. **Pargana:** A sub-district level unit comprising a cluster of villages (smallest among the three).
2. **Sarkar:** A district level unit comprising multiple Parganas.
3. **Suba:** A province comprising multiple Sarkars (largest administrative unit).

10. Consider the following statements:

1. Revenue administration of the Delhi Sultanate, the officer in charge of revenue collection at the local level was known as Amil.
2. The Iqta system of the Sultans of Delhi was an ancient indigenous Indian institution.
3. The office of Mir Bakshi came into existence during the reign of the Khalji Sultans of Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Amil was the executive officer responsible for measuring land and collecting land revenue at the Pargana/district level during the Sultanate period.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Iqta system was not an indigenous Indian institution. It was an West Asian Islamic institutional concept developed under the Abbasid Caliphate and introduced into India by the Ghorids and Iltutmish.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The office of Mir Bakshi (head of military administration and intelligence) was an institution created during the Mughal Empire under Akbar, not under the Khalji Sultans (who used the designation Ariz-i-Mamalik).