
ANSWER SHEET

FULL TEST II

(MEDIEVAL INDIA)

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Time Allowed: 180 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 250

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There are EIGHT questions in this paper.

Candidate has to attempt FIVE questions in all.

Question Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, THREE are to be attempted choosing at least ONE question from each section.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.

Attempts of questions shall be counted in sequential order. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

PART A

Q.1 Answer the following in about 150 words each: 10x5=50

Q.1 (a) How did Firoz Shah Bahamani and Mahmud Gawan contribute in the field of education? [10 Marks]

Deccan Sultans and those of Gujarat were deeply involved in cultural and educational activities.

Firoz Shah Bahamani - Deccan

He was a great administrator who provided stable administration and created environment for education.

He built a madarssa in Gulbarga where scholars from Iraq and Persia were invited. He himself was a great scholar and knew multiple languages ~~there~~ like Sanskrit, Persian etc through which he interacted with his subjects.

Mahmud Begarha - Gujarat

He built strong Sultanate in Gujarat. Invited many foreign nobles into India, who were ~~eat~~ categorised Afaqis.

Built education institutions for muslims and also gave donations to hindu institutions. He followed tolerant outlook towards religion which provided scope for education.

Hence both contributed immensely to education.

Q.1 (b) Trace the development of the Mughal painting during the reign of Jahangir. [10 Marks]

Mughal painting reached its zenith under
Jahangir's reign.

New trends :

i) Jahangir himself a great painter took personal interest in paintings. He could tell which painter painted which part.

ii) Jahangir promoted natural themes in paintings eg., paintings of dodo, Zebra, Bengal Florican etc. Mansur was prominent naturalist painter.

iii) Saw incoming of European elements in Mughal paintings - 3D effect, light and shadow; greater realism and less abstractionism; Portrait paintings - Bishandas, Basawan etc excelled in this.

iv) Paintings become more rigid and movement of characters is lost.

Under him painting became a prominent art and there were specific painters to do different tasks like Abul Hasan for colour scheme.

It was because of these trends, Mughal court became hub for prominent painters like Daswant.

Q.1 (c) Give an estimate of the Akbar's patronage of technology during Mughal period. [10 Marks]

Akbar was a visionary ruler who gave emphasis on science and technology. Details are given in Ain-i-Akbari by Abul Fazi.

Patronage to technology

He patronised leading innovator of the time Mir Fathullah Shirazi. He devised new agricultural calendars and built new mechanical devices. But couldn't conceptualise any new theory.

Abul Fazi mentions about contemporary discoveries like Americas (Alam Nau).

- Akbar himself was a great inventor:
- i) Matchlock that could drive 17 ^{barrels} guns ^{simultaneously}.
 - ii) Ox drawn chariot that also had grain threshers in it.

iii) Mechanism to clean multiple barrels simultaneously.

However, these should be accepted with caution as Abul Fozl tried to exaggerate Akbar's qualities to project him as 'Jusan i Kamil'. Other sources, archaeological remains should be used to verify.

Q.1 (d) Briefly describe the different types of Karkhana in Tughlaq Period. [10 Marks]

Karkhanas were the workshops maintained by the royal household, nobility and few merchants.

They produced various items for royal and common uses.

Royal Karkhanas - Tughlaq phase

Tarikh i firoz shahi by Afif and Barani's texts, Ibn Baluta's Rehla give insight.

Karkhanas excelled in art of textile weaving, embroidery, printing, dyeing.

Royal clothes were an important item.

Royal Robes of Sultan and those presented to Caliph were also made.

-roy Some Karkhanas excelled in making Royal shoes. Firoz Shah Tughlaq is said to have among the costliest shoes.

Other items were swords, fireworks, firecrackers, jewellery etc.

Merchant Karbhanas

These were comparatively less as artisans preferred independent enterprise.

They engaged in items of mass consumption like terracotta works, pottery, low quality clothes etc.

Overall, Karbhanas manned by slaves had limited outreach ^{mainly} to nobility and served them with great diversity.

Q.1 (e) What was the contribution of Firoz Tughlaq to progress of Agriculture in India? Discuss. [10 Marks]

Shams e Siraj Afif's Tarikh i Firozshahi and works of other scholars tell of Firoz Shah Tughlaq's reforms:

- i) To revive agriculture from the crisis created by policies of Mohammad bin Tughlaq, he waived off Sondhan loans by publicly burning records.
- ii) Reformed revenue system. Illegal cesses (abwabs) were removed and 5 taxes as per Sharia along with Haq i Sharb (irrigation tax) were levied.
- iii) laid down 2 canals over Yamuna river.
- iv) Established 12000 orchards around Delhi.
- v) Model farms were essentially constructed.

Because of these reforms, Afif says that there was general prosperity and women wore gold ornaments.

However Afif's account is eulogistic and can't be fully relied up. At any case, agriculture revived but it ~~or~~ could not stop decline of Sultanate.

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Q.4 (a) Give an account of Rajatarangini of Kalhana as a source of political history of Kashmir. Also discuss the reliability of the Rajatarangini as a source of the political history of Kashmir? [20 Marks]

Rajatarangini or 'Stream of Kings' is a historical text dealing with regional history of Kashmir, written in 12th century by Kalhana.

Rajatarangini as political history

The book is divided into 8 parts and tries to reconstruct Kashmir history from pre-historic times.

Part I deals with Gomada rule in Kashmir. Mahabharat battle is believed to have happened in this phase. This is a long phase starting from about 3rd millennium B.C.

Mentions about rule of Ashoka, Kanishka, Guptas etc.

Part IV deals with Karkota dynasty's rule in mid 8th to mid 9th century. Lalitaditya Muktopida's victory over Yashovaman is described. He built new capital - Burhospuro.

He also defeated Arabs by uniting forces with Yashovarman.

Utpala rule is described in book VI. Avantivarman's reign and works of his minister and engineer Suya are mentioned in reclamation of land.

Book VII mentions of lohara rule.

In this phase Queen Didda's reign is of special importance.

He mentions about prolific building activity - Martand Sun temple, Pandrethan temple etc.

Reliability as history source

Kalhana tries to give a honest historical understanding. He tells that historian should be unbiased, should refer and cite other historians, works.

and other sources. He also emphasizes on drawing lessons from history. Through this he avoids many issues in other works like Nripavali.

However his text too has some issues :

- i) Chronology gets blurred sometimes eg., he mentions Ashoka ruled ~~only~~ for 300 years.
- ii) Mixes legends with history.
- iii) Exaggerates Lalitaditya's military expansion.

Hence the account, though valuable, should be complemented with other works for better understanding of Kashmir history.

Q.4 (b) Discuss the role of the local assemblies involved in the governance of the Chola Empire. [15 Marks]

Chola empire was a wonder of its time because of the prominent role played by local assemblies - ur, Sabhas, Nadu, Nagaram.

We come to know of their role from 2 Uttaramerur inscriptions and other sources.

Role of local assemblies

These assemblies were locally made through Kudavolai system (lottery). They used to have separate committees for trade, maintenance of village tanks, gold, weights and measures, etc.
tax collection.

These committees gave land grants to temples. Many land grant inscriptions by imperial centre are addressed to these committees who then gave to others.

They also decided on local disputes.

Nagarams had well developed system for dispute resolution where guild members played crucial role like Manigramam, Nanadesi.

These committees also took up building activities like temples, caves etc.

Hence, historians like NK Shastri however, ~~there~~ believe them to be representative of tradition of democracy in India.

However, ~~others~~ views have emerged:

i) These committees seem to have lost power over time due to appointment of imperial officers like Viduyil Adhikari.

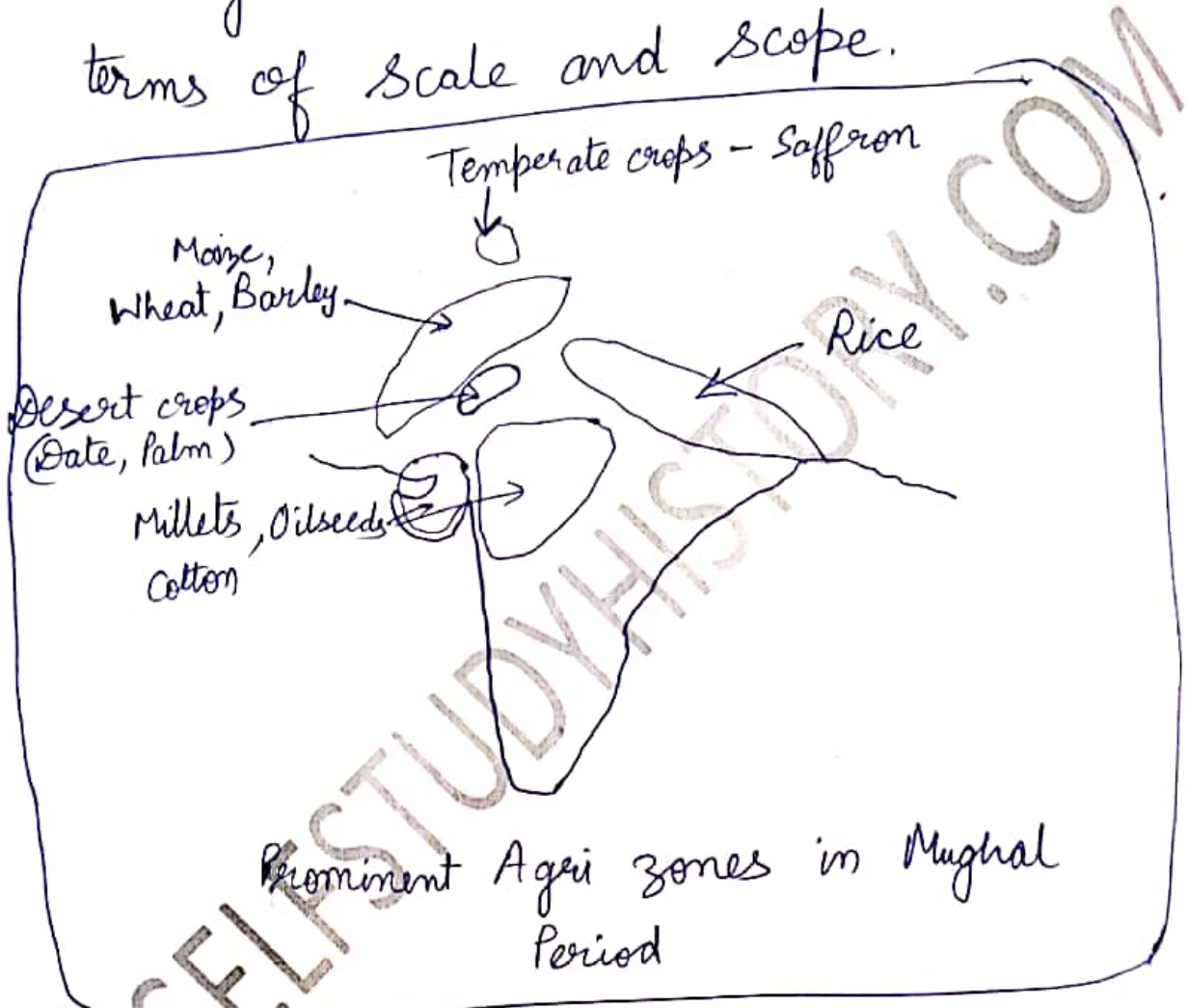
ii) These had lesser control under more powerful rulers like Rajaraja and Rajendra.

iii) Among these assemblies, Nadu played more crucial role as revenue was assessed for Nadu, inscriptions addressed to them etc.

Hence, their exact nature and authority is not fully understood and more research needs to be done for this.

Q.4 (c) "An important feature of agriculture in Mughal India has been the large number of crops raised by the peasants". Illustrate by giving examples. [15 Marks]

Mughal period saw expansion in the agricultural economy of India in terms of scale and scope.



The diversity is understood from Ain i Akbari by Abul Fazl, Chahar Gulshan, and revenue records of the time.

Prominent crops were Maize, wheat, rice, Barley, Oil seeds, Millet, Sugarcane.

Paelsart mentions that Maize and millets were important part of rural diet. and urban elites ate wheat.

Many crops were imported.

From Central Asia, melon, apricots, cherry, other crops were imported. Portuguese brought potato, Chilly, Tobacco.

Sugar cultivation was prominent and Thevenot mentions that every sugar cultivator had a boiler. It was mainly consumed by elites.

Fruits and vegetables cultivated on large scale. Prominent ones were Mango, and others. Saffron was cultivated in Kashmir and taxed at 50%.

Cotton cultivation was important activity as it supported a huge

industry.

Contact with West Asia led to promotion of desert cultivation in dry areas of Rajasthan desert.

Overall, Mughal revenue system provided enough scope for more investments and innovations leading to agriculture growth.

PART B

Q.5 Answer the following in about 150 words each: $10 \times 5 = 50$

Q.5 (a) Evaluate the contents of the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri as a source of medieval history. [10 Marks]

Tabaqat i Nasiri by Minhajuddin Siraj talks about reigns of Iltutmish and Razia Sultana.

(As medieval history)

Focusses mainly of political events like creation of Turkani-Chahalgiri, Iqta system, etc. Mongol raids on Sultanate.

Razia's reign is captured. It ~~also~~ ^{tells} of her qualities as an administrator, public leader etc.

Other trends get passive attention like practice of wall painting ^{in the} ~~beginning~~ early phase of Sultanate. Coins and currencies in use are mentioned.

Problems:

i) Minhaj i Siraj was an Ulema and hence religious prejudices cloud his historical insight.

ii) Blames Razia's Gender for failure to control coup, even though she maintained strong control over nobility.

iii) lacks much insights on economy and society.

Hence this text should be read along with other sources for better historical reconstruction.

Q.5 (b) "Dara Shikoh, known for his liberal views and interest in pantheism, was an erudite champion of mystical religious speculation and a poetic diviner of syncretic cultural interaction among people of all faiths." Comment. [10 Marks]

Dara Shikoh was the chosen successor by Shah Jahan. He had a tolerant and assimilatory outlook towards non muslims and their culture.

Works:

- i) He was a member of Academy of sufi Silsilah.
- ii) He translated uponishads into Persian - Sirr-e-Akbar.
- iii) ~~Text~~ Combined the teachings of sufism and Indian philosophy to promote harmony. Majma ul Bahrain.

Other measures/traits to show his liberal views, interest in pantheism, mysticism:

- i) He had strong relations with Rajput nobles - Jai Singh, Jaswant Singh.

Q.5 (c) Describe the salient features of the Chandella temple architecture. [10 Marks]

Chandela or the Khajuraho school of temple architecture is one of subschools of Nagara style.

Salient features:

i) It has multiple Shikharas dedicated to different deities, all latched to main Shikhara above Garbhagriha.

ii) No boundary walls.

iii) Built on Upraised platform

iv) Use of Sandstone.

v) Richly sculpted eg. ~~Kam~~ Kandhariya Mahadev temple.

vi) Catered to diverse religious views:

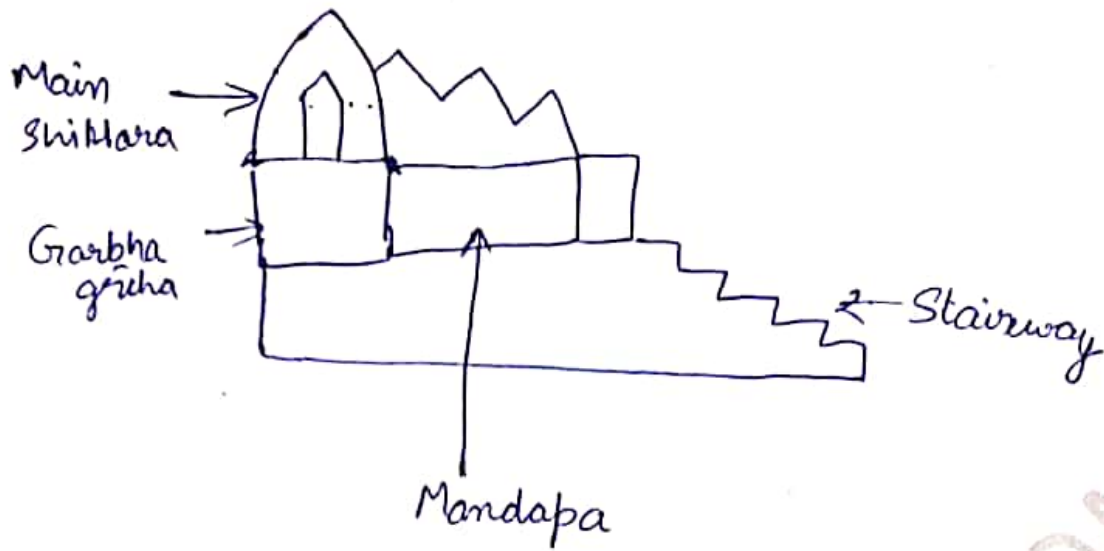
Chausath Yogini - Shakti

Kandhariya Mahadev - Shiva

lakshmana temple - Vishnu

Parswanath temple - Jains.

vii) Eroticism is displayed in mystic sense
eg., Kandhariya Mahadev temple.



Main Shrine gives resemblance to
Mount Meru.

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Q.5 (d) "Tantricism, if not in practice, at least on conceptual level challenged Patriarchy." Examine this statement. [10 Marks]

Tantricism was a religious trend that emerged prominent in post-Gupta and early medieval times.

Features:

- i) Emphasis on 5 makaras - Mudra, Matsya, Maithuna, Mamsa, Madira.
- ii) Emphasis on harnessing Kundalini energy.

iii)

Challenged Patriarchy at Conceptual level:

- i) It allowed women tantrics while existing orders like Brahmanism, Buddhism gave lower position to women.
- ii) Portrayed energy as feminine and thus, in religion, women found a new identity.
- iii) While other sects denied salvation to women and saw their sexuality as

hindrance, Tantricism saw sexuality as a means to salvation.

Because of this, it got popular among various religions as separate sect - Vajrayana buddhism, Yapaniya Jains, Kapalika and Kalamukha Shaivasetc.

However, these trends on a practical level didn't lead to much women upliftment due to strong regulations on females by families.

Q.5 (e) Critically examine the observations of Francois Bernier on Mughal India. [10 Marks]

~~From~~ Francois Bernier came to India in 17th century and provided interesting insights into Mughal empire. He was a physician.

Political observations:

He tells that Jagirdars were frequently transferred thus there was less incentive for them to invest in agriculture.

Gives some information on Mansabdari system.

Social observations:

Tells of existence of practices like child sati, purdah, child marriage. Caste system and untouchability are mentioned.

However, he criticises Indians for insular outlook and not learning new discoveries like the blood circulation as ~~discovered~~ discovered by Europeans.

His account gives crucial details about Mughal rule during Aurangzeb but it is full of biases against Indian culture and society, ~~which need to be~~ Thus it should be read with care.

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Q.6 (a) Discuss the characteristics of Din-i-Ilahi and motivation of Akbar behind its propounding Din-i-Ilahi. [20 Marks]

Akbar's secular and spiritual outlook post the Ibadat Khana debates found reflection in his Din-i-Ilahi.

Din-i-Ilahi

Tauhid-i-Ilahi wrongly interpreted by Abul Fazl as Din-i-Ilahi was a new order established by Akbar to promote religious universalism. Its features:

- i) Unity of being.
- ii) Give up one's property, religion, ego.
- iii) Religious tolerance and acceptance.

Motive behind Din-i-Ilahi

It was mainly to after the

disappointment of ~~the~~ Akbar with the religious class in the Ibadat Khona debates, that Akbar realised need for a universalist sect. This was

because:

- i) He realised that a diverse society like India couldn't survive when its communities held hostility to each other deep within themselves.
- ii) It was to strengthen his Rajput policy who after the 1581 rebellion had emerged as fully trustworthy and servants of Mughal empire.
- iii) Akbar also wanted to ensure his authority over Ulema class.
Already the 1581 Mahzarnama declaration had made him the supreme authority to interpret Islamic theology.

iv) Through this, he wanted to ensure his status as 'Insan-A-Kamil' i.e., the perfect man.

Qim 3 Shahi was similar to Ashoka's Dhamma, an attempt to strengthen unity and imperial control over diverse empire. Akbar's weakness lay in not promoting it with equal vigour due to which it didn't last long.

Q.6 (b) What social changes were caused in India by the foundation of Delhi Sultanate? [15 Marks]

Delhi Sultanate formed in the end of 12th century led to remarkable changes in Society.

Coming of Islam

While Arab invasion 712 AD did introduce Islam in Sindh, yet it ~~wasn't~~ hadn't spread beyond Indus. That changed with Delhi sultanate.

Bhakti and Sufi movement

As the Brahman - Rajput alliance shattered, and state no longer interested in ensuring Varnashrama dharma, Bhakti movement grew - Nathpanthis, Kabir, Guru Nanak etc.

Influx of Islam and monastic beliefs of Sufi and Bhakti led to popularising of Sufi ~~and~~ saints of Chisti silsilah. eg., Moinuddin Chisti.

Urban revival — Mohammad Habib.

Settlement of Jaqa headquarters,
Centralised rule, patronisation of crafts
 and trade led to urban growth.

Cities — Delhi, Agra, Jampur emerged.

Many rulers built new cities like
Agra by Sikander Lodhi.

Women

Their condition witnessed further
 decline — Purdah system became elaborate.
Sati, child marriage continued. Polygamy
 practised. Caste barriers on them
 increased.

Slavery became more prominent
 due to emphasis on slaves by new
 ruling class. Firoz Tughlaq had a
diwan i Banga Bandagan.

Untouchability continued, though Bhakti
 and Sufi uplifted them slightly.

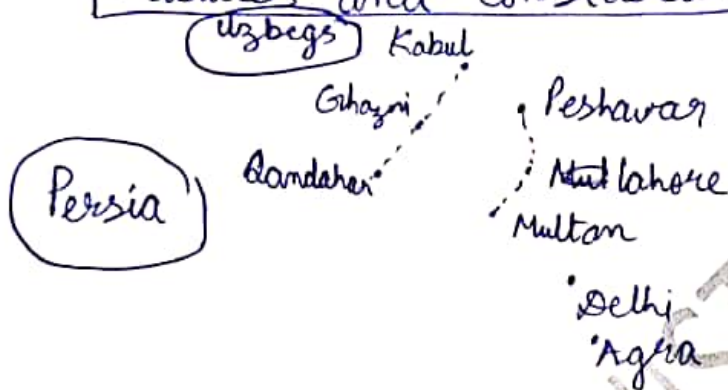
New social customs began. Bismillah
Khani for children. In Deccan, Urs
ceremony saw participation of Jangams
showing assimilatory trend.

Hence it marked social transitions
in many respects, but continuity in others.

Q.6 (c) Discuss the features and considerations of Mughal's foreign policy with respect to Northwest frontier and trace the policy under different Mughal rulers. [15 Marks]

Mughals were fully aware of the strategic importance of North West frontier and devoted considerable resources for it.

Features and Considerations



Babur in Tuzuk-i-Baburi mentions that Kabul is gateway to central Asia and Gandahar to Persia. Both were crucial to safeguard India from external threats - Uzbegs and Safavis.

Other concern was the prospect of Uzbek-Ottoman alliance which could disrupt balance of power. Route of Haj via Persia was another concern, along with trade.

Policies under Emperors

Mughals' main focus was on -

- i) Control over Gandahar.
- ii) Prevent Uzbek invasion over Persia to ensure balance of power.

Under Babar, Humayun, relations were not very strong due to their local occupation.

But ~~Humayun~~ under Akbar, Mughals played a crucial role. Strong network of forts, routes for reinforcements helped.

Akbar

Initially he avoided any alliance with Uzbeks against Persia, and relations with Persia too were weak.

As Conquest of Gandahar in 1598 led to strengthened position and he sent embassies to Persians and Uzbeks.

Jahangir

He had good relations with Persians but they backstabbed him by reconquering Gandahar. He proposed a Mughal-Uzbek

alliance but it couldn't fructify.

Shah Jahan

He wanted to establish supremacy in ancestral lands of central Asia and reconquer Bandahar. Bandahar was reconquered in early 17th century but it proved costly.

His Balkh campaign failed ^{draining} huge resources of empire.

Aurangzeb

During his reign, both Uzbeks and Safavids on decline. Hence no much threat. He went for diplomatic isolation.

Hence the NW frontier was crucial part of Mughal foreign policy and saw active ~~in~~ involvement of Emperors.

Q.7 (a) Critically analyse various causes given by historians for the rise of the Marathas in the first half of the 18th Century A.D. [20 Marks]

Rise of Marathas as a ~~the~~ prominent force during early 18th century has been variedly interpreted by historians.

M.G. Ranade saw it as nationalistic reaction to foreign rule. However, Marathas accepted Deccan sultans' suzerainty who were not considered 'foreign' by them.

Sir Jadunath Sarkar and G.S. Sardesai claim it to be hindu reaction to communal policies of Aurangzeb. Shivaji's title, Aurangzeb's policies support the view. However, such titles were normal at the time. Moreover, the maratha rise began much earlier.

As per Satish Chandra, it ~~reflects~~ was due to the administrative and diplomatic abilities of Shivaji. He curbed powers of big deshmukhs and relied on support of smaller deshmukhs like Marle chiefs. He made old system more efficient.

Other historians believe that it was due to the social content of Maharashtra dharm movement. Many low ranked social groups supported Shivaji to get higher status.

Jeyan Habib believes it to be an outcome of Agrarian distress caused by exploitation of Saeranjams.

Geography helped. It made them hardy and -less prosperity led to egalitarianism which forged unity.

Andre Wink says that Marathas rose within Mughal conception of Fitna or sedition. It was due to this that Marathas could raid Mughal provinces.

Role of Peshwas

Balaji Vishwanath can be termed as true architect of Maratha empire as he entered into alliance with Sayeed Brothers which secured Maratha Swarajya along with right over Chauth and Sardeshmukhi over deccan provinces, through treaty of 1719.

Bat Baji Rao expanded Maratha domain by annexing Malwa and Gujarat. Siddis were driven from mainland and ports and Chaul and Dabul were captured. Nizam forced to give territories ~~but~~ and annual ~~to~~ chauth. Bengash Pathans were defeated.

Balaji Baji Rao's reign saw immense expansion to Punjab, Delhi, Odisha, Rajputana etc. However by

this time the empire had transformed into confederacy where prominent families like Peshwas, Holkars, Scindias, Gaekwads etc held influence.

Hence Maratha empire had multiple forces behind its expansion but overtime, signs of weakness began to emerge.

Q.7 (b) Give a brief account of government and society of the Vijayanagar Empire. [15 Marks]

Vijayanagar empire was one of the most powerful, richest empires in world.

Sources include - Amuktamalyada of Krishnadevaraya, various Sanskrit texts, commentaries, works of travellers.

Government

i) Empire was divided into:

Rajya > Nadu > Sthala > Sime > Village

ii) It was centralised monarchy with King assisted by council with advisory powers.

iii) Various departments like revenue, military.

iv) Ashu Amaranayaka system - 75% of territory was divided among amaranayakas who were posted in capital and ruled through prabharis. They had to provide annual tribute during Dasara festival, and maintain troops.

This is described by Nuniz and Domingo Paes.

v) Administration was highly secular. Abdur Razaq mentions of a secular nature of King.

vi) Travellers mention of strong army, elephant stables, forts etc.

vii) Brahmanas played a prominent role in administration as ministers, Nayaka chiefs, military chiefs etc.

Society

Society

It was divided on chaturvarna and jati lines. Endogamy and intra-family marriages were preferred.

It was territorially segmented.

lower castes were divided based on occupation - Idangai were artisans and Velangai - peasants. Peasants are

regarded as sat-Shudras in local poems.

Assimilation of tribal elements seen in worship of lineage tutelary shrine.

Women enjoyed considerable autonomy and rights. Nikitn mentions women trained as bodyguards, soldiers, accountants etc.

Slavery was practiced - Bezbag system.

Hence there was immense dynamism in its polity and society.

Q.7 (c) Analyse the view that the agrarian crisis of the 17th century led to the disintegration of the Mughal empire. [15 Marks]

As per historian Jrfan Habib, it was the Agrarian crisis that led to decline of Mughal empire.

Agrarian crisis

Under Mughals, revenue system was based on efficient collection ^(Hasil) and effective assessment (Jama). However, with time the difference between Jama and Hasil increased leading to fall in revenue.

Thus many Jagirdars, Zamindars resorted to exploitation. Aurangzeb issued farmans against such steps but it seems to have less effect.

This led to flight of peasantry and rebellions among Jats, Sikhs, Bundelas etc, led by leaders like Churaman Jat, Chattrasal etc.

As Bernier says, Jagirdars' frequent transfers made reinvestment in land less profitable for them. This reduced productivity of land.

Moreover, as agrarian productivity couldn't rise with growing population (at .21%) as estimated by Shireen Moosvi, there emerged crisis in rural areas.

Also, revenue was collected in cash and thus any dynamic change in prices would affect farmers.

Other factors

However, it shouldn't be over emphasized. New studies show increasing prosperities along peripheries - Punjab and Bengal, as per Chetan Singh. Communal policies of Aurangzeb too contributed.

~~For~~ Also the Jagirdari crisis due to bejagiri, ~~and~~ lesser resources of Jagirdar and opposition from Zamindars was crucial in Mughal decline, which couldn't be checked by weak successors and indisciplined nobility.

Q.8 (a) Give a brief account of the contribution of Amir Khusrau to the poetry, literature, language and history during the Sultanate period. Can he be considered as a historian? [15 Marks]