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Start Time: 5:30 PM End Time: 7:00 PM.

## ANSWER SHEET

(SECTIONAL TEST III- MEDIEVAL INDIA)

उत्तर पुस्तिका (अनुभागीय परीक्षा III- मध्यकालीन भारत)

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Time Allowed: 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 130

समय: 90 मिनट

अधिकतम अंक: 130

There are FOUR questions in this paper.

इस प्रश्नपत्र में 4 प्रश्न हैं।

Candidate has to attempt THREE questions in all.

उम्मीदवार को सभी में 3 प्रश्नों का प्रयास करना होगा।

Question No. 1 is compulsory and out of the remaining, TWO are to be attempted.

प्रश्न सं 1 अनिवार्य है और शेष में से कम से कम 2 का प्रयास किया जाना है।

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

किसी प्रश्न / भाग के अंकों की संख्या उसके विरुद्ध इंगित की गई है।

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

प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ भी निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाना चाहिए।

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.

प्रश्नों के प्रयासों को क्रमबद्ध रूप से गिना जाएगा।

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**Comments after evaluation**

**Marks:**

**Comments for improvement:**

Q.  
Q.1

Q.1  
Q.1(a)

Answer the following in about 150 words each:  $10 \times 3 = 30$  निम्नलिखित में से प्रत्येक का लगभग 150 शब्दों में उत्तर दें:  $10 \times 3 = 30$

Was the Caliphate a source and sanction of the legal authority of the Delhi Sultans? Discuss. [10 Marks]

क्या खलीफ़ा दिल्ली के सुल्तानों के कानूनी अधिकार का स्रोत और अनुमोदन था? चर्चा करें। [10 अंक]

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Historians like Laddunath Saksena have labelled the Delhi Sultanate a 'Theocratic' state that drew its legitimacy from the caliphate.

In the Delhi Sultanate, there was no law of primogeniture. Thus, sultans sought to get letters of investiture from the caliphate to justify their authority to rule.

But, the extent to which the caliphate was a source and sanction for the sultanates legal authority depended on political circumstances and strength of individual sultans -

① Thus, in 1229, Iltutmish turned the ceremony of receiving the letter of investiture into a grand affair.

② By Balban's reign, as the sultanate strengthened and consolidated, the ruler claimed to be 'zill-e-i-Ilahi' or shadow of god on earth.

Yet, the caliph's approval of his reign was sought. The khutba and coins continued to be issued in his name.

③ During Alauddin's reign, as the distance between state and religion increased, the ruler declared himself to be a Deputy caliph.

④ Whereas, Mubarak Shah declared himself to be the caliph.

⑤ In the reigns of successive monarchs, the nominal authority of caliph was recognised only as a tool for optics.

⑥ By the time of Lodi, only superficial links with the caliphate were maintained.

Thus, while the caliphate served as a tool to justify power, as Sultans became powerful, the importance of caliphate declined.

Evaluate the Malfuzat texts as sources of medieval history. [10 Marks]

Q.1 (b)

मध्यकालीन इतिहास के स्रोत के रूप में मालफुजात ग्रंथों का मूल्यांकन करें। [10 अंक]

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Malfuzat texts refer to the conversation of pupils with sufi saints. composed generally in Persian, they are an important source of history.

Abul Fazal is credited with writing various Malfuzat texts while a popular work is Amar Hasan Syzisi Pawad-ul-Fawad.

Malfuzat Texts as source of History-

① As these texts are not commissioned by rulers, they provide insight into socio-cultural aspects rather than dry political details.

② Historical perspective is provided from below. Thus, they reflect the

syncretic nature of society with considerable inter-mingling between Hindus & Muslims.

③ They provide details of Sufi ideas like Tawassuf (union with god) as well as of multi-cultural Sufi institutions like khankahs that attracted followers from all creeds.

But, these texts have limitations -

① They are neither written by political commentators nor historians -

② In general, there is little regard for chronology. Various contradictory events are often mentioned together.

③ Focus is on religious affairs with little regard for broad historical causation -

Thus, while rich sources of religious & cultural details, they should be handled with a critical eye for a careful historical analysis.

Were the Temple in medieval north India just a religious institution? [10 Marks]

क्या मध्यकालीन उत्तर भारत में मंदिर सिर्फ एक धार्मिक संस्था थे? [10 अंक]

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K. A. Nizami has rightly stated that in medieval north India the temple emerged as an "axis of socio-cultural and economic life"

① Temples were important centres of public gatherings - for festivals, entertainment activities, judgment arena for kings, coronation ceremonies etc.

② Kesavan Veluthat highlights how temples turned into powerful, landed magnates. They were in control of large amount of land that was leased out to peasants, tribals etc.

↳ This served two purposes. Not only were the temples more efficient at revenue collection, but they played an important integrative role.

They brought tribals, local cults etc. into the dominant brahmanical order and reinforced state power.

⑤ As owners of large wealth, they also performed bank like functions - interest charged through usury was used to fulfil their duties like temple maintenance etc.

④ They emerged as pulse points of urbanism - generated huge demand for ghee, oil, flowers etc. Bustling towns emerged around these ritual centres.

⑤ Temples also functioned as centres of learning. 'Ghatikas' were attached to them where pupils learned various subjects like grammar, mathematics, etc.

④ They also perpetrated culture. Thus, the large dancing halls at Konark etc. reflect the same.

In medieval north India, temples were not merely religious institutions but important socio-economic players.

Q.2 (a)

"Prosperity bred sedition and revolt, poverty was the guarantee of stability and peace." In the light of this statement, analyse the economic policy of Alauddin Khalji. [20 Marks]

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"समृद्धि ने राजद्रोह और विद्रोह को जन्म दिया, गरीबी स्थिरता और शांति की गारंटी थी।" इस कथन के आलोक में अलाउद्दीन खिलजी की आर्थिक नीति का विश्लेषण कीजिये। [20 अंक]

Allauddin Khalji's reign saw large-scale changes in the economic sphere the details of which are present in works of Isami ("Khazain ul Futuh"), Barani ("Tarikh-i-Firozshahi") etc.

After taking over the throne in 1296 AD, the monarch is said to have identified four main causes of instability in the empire—close links between nobles, marriage alliances, excess wealth and wine drinking.

In order to tackle these menaces as well as to raise a powerful army in face of an impending Mongol invasion, the monarch issued a series of ordinances —

- ① The entire region from Lahore to Allahabad was brought under the 'khalisa'. The demand for land revenue was increased to 50%.
- ② A new system for land revenue measurement called 'Masahat system' based on 'zabt' was introduced.
- ③ Barani informs us that through the first ordinance the emperor himself fixed the price of different items.
- ④ A separate department called 'Minar-i-Riyaset' was established to check hoarding and profiteering.
- ⑤ Amils or revenue collectors were ordered to be strict with peasants who were forced to sell their produce immediately after harvest - so prices could be kept low.
- ⑥ Baryaris were made to settle near Yamuna for quickly transporting grain from rural to urban areas.

- ⑦ Different markets were established for grain, 'sarai' adl for ~~horses~~ sugar, market for slaves, horses etc:
- ⑧ To maintain strict vigil officials like 'Suhra-i-mandi', munhans (spis) were also appointed.
- ⑨ Advances were given to merchants engaged in long-distance trade to directly sell their produce in the markets. Barani informs that a large amount of produce was brought in with clothes overflowing - indicating the success of Alauddin's reforms.
- ⑩ Further, both Barani and Isami attest that due to his policies, there was sufficient grain even during famines.
- ⑪ Alauddin's economic measures enabled him to raise a large army and inflicted a crushing defeat on the Mongols in 1305. This successfully secured India's scientific frontiers against-

foreign onslaught -

- ⑫ His reforms also gave a boost to money economy and led to a trike what urban continuum

However,

- ① Allauddin's measures drove peasantry into impoverishment.
- ② Further, as Sarani notes, corruption at the lower level continued.
- ③ After his reign, most of the privileges of local chiefs etc: had to be restored under Mubarak Shah.

Satish Chandra notes that his reforms could have lasted if they were only meant for essential goods.

Nonetheless, they were motivated by political expediency and successfully served their purpose of defending the frontiers of the sultanate.

Q.2 (b)

Discuss how and why the Rajatarangini of Kalhana can be considered as a to be a reliable source of the political history of Kashmir. [15 Marks]

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चर्चा करें कि कल्हण की राजतरंगिणी को कश्मीर के राजनीतिक इतिहास का विश्वसनीय स्रोत कैसे और क्यों माना जा सकता है। [15 अंक]

Kalhana has been accorded a very high position as an early medieval historian composed in the 11th century, the Rajatarangini ("river of kings") is an important source of historical reconstruction.

### CONTENT & SIGNIFICANCE-

- ① Divided into 12 books, the text deals with the reigns of different kings until Jayasimha's reign.
- ② The first 4 books provide dry political details of rulers following the battle of Kurukshetra.  
↳ Important are references to Ashoka the Mauryan ruler who is said to have established various stupas & monasteries in Kashmir.

- ↳ Kalhana also notes the brief rule of the Huna king, Mihirkula in the mid-6th century.
- ③ In the next 8 books, Kalhana focuses not just on political details but also social, cultural and natural details.
- ④ He provides information on reign of Utpala of Aditya dynasty. Kalhana informs us of the various irrigation works taken by the ruler including a reservoir on Jhelum river.
- ⑤ He also mentions of Sidda, the 11th century queen of Kashmir. Kalhana notes she was ambitious and capable. In general, his writing reflects treatment of women as historically influential figures.
- ⑥ Kalhana's method of history writing as per A.L. Basham have many

similarities to modern historians - thus before writing, he first undertook a detailed analysis of existing works including land grant charters, writings of past 11 chroniclers etc.

④ Kalhana emphasises on truthful portrayal of facts. Further, as his source of information was his father who was patronised by King Harsha, Kalhana's writing was not aimed to please any patron.

But, it had some deficiencies - -

① Kalhana displays a bias towards Brahmins.

② At various places mixes up chronology and mentions contradictory events together.

③ Praises Utpala highly but is very critical of Sidda.

Despite lacunae, Kalhana's work stands as a strong testament to historical consciousness in ancient India.

Q.2 (c)

Give an account of major craft and technology introduced in India during Sultanate period. [15 Marks]

सल्तनत काल के दौरान भारत में पेश किए गए प्रमुख शिल्प और प्रौद्योगिकी का विवरण दें। [15 अंक]

The establishment of the Delhi Sultanate in the 10th century saw the rise of various arts and crafts. The large scale nature of changes had led some scholars to call this a period of 3rd urbanisation.

### Major crafts and Technology

① Though textile technology was already quite mature since ancient times, the greatest new addition was of 'charkha' or spinning wheel.

It did not replace the spindle but led to ~~the~~ momentous increase in production of yarn.

② Another new introduction was of raw of the cotton carder that increased the speed of separating cotton from

its seeds.

③ carpet weaving also received a spurt as huge demand existed in towns like Delhi, Lahore etc:

④ Indigo's usage increased many fold for bleaching. Towns specialising in indigo production like Sayana (UP) thrived.

↳ New techniques like tye-dye, block painting etc also flourished.

⑤ Before the arrival of tucks, writing was done on metals, silks etc: A remarkable introduction was that of paper-making and book-binding.

↳ paper began to be used on such a large scale that 'puriyas' (paper-packets) were used to package meats.

⑥ In the field of metallurgy, tin coating received a push. As a ductile & malleable material, it was

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highly refined and prevented corrosion

④ trial of tubes also saw introduction of gunpowder although it was only used in fireworks.

⑧ In the field of architecture, a new style of DOMES & VAULTS was introduced and it gradually replaced the indigenous Khabate style of construction.

⑨ with tubes, use of iron stirrups, magnetic compass etc. became very popular.

Thus, large scale changes were introduced in economy. This in turn led to a high degree of social mobility as new occupations emerged. The Brahman hold over society weakened and a new Indo-Islamic culture flourished.

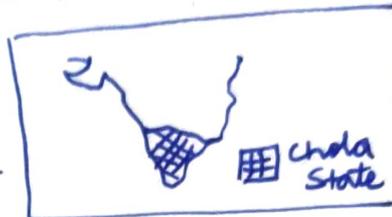
Q.4 (a)

Critically examine how the Chola village assemblies were democratic in nature. How Chola's centralized administrative structure adjusted with local self-government? [20 Marks]

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आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण करें कि चोल ग्राम सभाएँ किस प्रकार लोकतांत्रिक प्रकृति की थीं। चोल की केंद्रीकृत प्रशासनिक संरचना स्थानीय स्वशासन के साथ कैसे समायोजित हुई? [20 अंक]

Established by Vijalaya in 850 AD, the Chola Empire flourished in parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.



K.A.N Shastri has

highlighted the centralised nature of Chola state along with a flourishing of local corporate village assemblies like ur, sabha etc.

### Democratic Nature of Chola Village Assemblies

① The Uttaramerur inscription of Parantaka I throws light on various aspects of village assemblies.

Sabha was an assembly of Brahmanas in Brahmanadya villages whereas ur was a group of 'vellalari' (cultivators) in non-Brahman villages.

② Members of these assemblies were elected. The inscription contains details of method.

of election, qualification, disqualifications  
division of villages into wards etc:

- ③ Members who owned land, aged between 35-70 years, from respectable families and hadn't been elected continuously for 3 terms were considered eligible
- ④ Non-disclosure of accounts, conviction for offences, incest etc. were considered disqualifications
- ⑤ Members were elected for a tenure of 1 year through a lot system. Thereafter they were appointed as members of different committees like land, irrigation etc.
- ⑥ All members of the village including children had to be present at the time of election.
- ⑦ These committees had policing functions, judicial responsibilities, separate constitution - granting them a high degree of local autonomy.

of election, qualification, disqualifications  
 division of villages into wards etc:

- ③ Members who owned land, aged between 35-40 years, from respectable families and hadn't been elected continuously for 3 terms were considered eligible
- ④ Non-disclosure of accounts, conviction for offences, incest etc. were considered disqualifications
- ⑤ Members were elected for a tenure of 1 year through a lot system. Thereafter they were appointed as members of different committees like land, irrigation etc.
- ⑥ All members of the village including children had to be present at the time of election.
- ⑦ These committees had policing functions, judicial responsibilities, separate constitution - granting them a high degree of local autonomy.

However, they were not entirely democracies -

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- ① Members were not elected directly but via lot system. Further, there are no references to quorum, voting for decisions etc.
- ② Qualifications of property, high birth further restricted membership.
- ③ The central government's control also limited their autonomy -
  - ↳ Thus, key resolutions could only be passed in the presence of central officials.
  - ↳ The king often gave these assemblies directions on management. This is evident from Rajajaya I's Tanjore inscription containing various directions to the assemblies on management of Prithadeswara temple affairs.

↳ Further, grants of villages were made outside of the fertile Kaveri valley as the most lucrative lands were kept under central control.

④ In fact, local assemblies like Nagaram were used by the rulers to exercise control over local markets.

Thus, while the Chola village assemblies had a strong democratic element, they were subject to the imperial control of the Great Cholas.

Q.4 (b)

Why was Firuz Tughluq regarded as an ideal Muslim king of medieval times? [15 Marks]

फ़िरोज़ तुगलक को मध्यकाल का एक आदर्श मुस्लिम राजा क्यों माना जाता था? [15 अंक]

Fuoz Shah Tughlaq ascended the throne in 1351 - a time when the Delhi Sultanate was facing various centripetal challenges threatening its very existence.

Local chiefs had risen in rebellion, the ulema had issued a fatwa against the former monarch and the nobility was trying to assert its dominance.

It was in this backdrop that he initiated various changes details of which can be gleaned from Taukhi-i-Ferozshahi or Shems Siyaj Afif.

Fuoz Shah Tughlaq as an Ideal Muslim King -

- ① Soon after ascending the throne, he abandoned the policy of expansion declaring that blood of no Muslim.

should be shed for war.

② He imposed jizya, the first subordinate ruler to do so.

③ Furthermore, he undertook large scale charity work, especially for Muslims. Loans were extended to Muslim families for marrying off daughters.

↳ Divan i Khairat or department of charity was established to feed and care for the needy.

④ The state taxation on Muslim merchants was reduced to 2.5% compared to 5% on Hindus.

⑤ He forbade the policy of temple construction. Strong ties were maintained with the ulema who were granted lavish 'inams' (rent free lands)

⑥ Further, the authority of the Caliphate was recognised and coins and khutba were issued in the Caliph's name.

But, Feroz's policies should be understood as per the political context of the period. He wanted to use the spirit of Islamic unity to tide over centripetal tendencies.

That he was responding to the needs of the time is evident from the fact that he was also the first ruler during whose reign ~~Pers~~ Hindi/Sanskrit texts like Ragdarshan were translated to Persian.

Thus, Feroz Shah Tughlaq was indeed an ideal Muslim king but this was not entirely due to his theocratic outlook. ~~but~~ ~~as~~ It was also tempered by political expediency.

Q.4 (c)

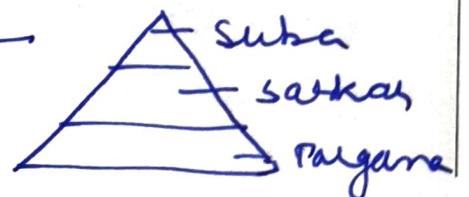
Evaluate the major contributions of Sher Shah to the administrative system in Medieval India. [15 Marks]

मध्यकालीन भारत में प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था में शेरशाह के प्रमुख योगदान का मूल्यांकन करें। [15 अंक]

W. H. Moreland notes that Sher Shah Suri laid the foundations of a politico-administrative system that reached its peak during Sher Shah's reign.

Pegged as the "Empire-Builder" of 16th century (1540-45) various changes were introduced during the reign of this Afghan ruler -

- ① Inspired by Allauddin Khalji's reign, adopted various features of his administration. Various departments like Diwan-i-arz (military), Diwan-i-irshad (religion) etc. were established.
- ② Sagh and Hulija were re-introduced.
- ③ For effective administration, the empire was divided into -



Officials like sipahsaladar (suba level), Faujdar (Pargana level) etc. performed civil and military functions.

↳ Justice was based on Muslim civil law and even the local chiefs like Chaudharies and Muqaddams who were not officially parts of administration were held responsible for lawlessness.

④ Land revenue was collected based on 'Zabt' (measurement). After extensive surveys, land revenue was fixed at 1/3rd of produce. Peasants were given 'pattas' capturing all details to prevent their exploitation.

↳ A remarkable introduction was the division of land as per productivity into Polaj (excellent), Chachar (medium) and baranti (poor)

⑤ Great emphasis was laid on building roads and communication systems. Thus, the Grand Trunk Road linking Indus and Beleg was revived.

⑥ Over 1700 sarais or rest houses were built. Around these markets developed and they turned into bustling towns or qasbahs.

↳ They also functioned as dak chokis with relay horsemen - information from even 300 kms could be shared within hours.

⑦ Custom duties were rationalised. They were imposed only twice - at entry and during sale.

⑧ New silver rupee & copper jital was introduced and weights & measures were standardised.

Thus, Shah Suri built a robust administrative structure on which later the Mughals built.