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NAME	Mobile No.	Email ID

Start Time:

End Time:

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# ANSWER SHEET

## SECTIONAL TEST- III

### (MEDIEVAL INDIA)

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Time Allowed: 90 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 130

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There are FOUR questions in this paper.

Candidate has to attempt THREE questions in all.

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

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.

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**Comments after evaluation**

THE REVIEW  
OF THE  
MEDICAL  
(INDIA)

Q.1 Answer the following in about 150 words each: 10x3=30

Q.1 (a) Briefly discuss the Deccan campaign of Alauddin Khalji and evaluate its importance. [10 Marks]

Alauddin Khalji, after succeeding Jallaluddin Khalji, took Khalji military imperialism to the next level by virtue of his successful campaign in Deccan.

### Deccan Campaigns

#### 1) Deogiri Campaign (1306-7)

- Launched after the king didn't pay annual tribute
- Force was sent under Malik Kayas
- King of Deogiri defeated, he accepted sovereignty of Alauddin and promised to pay tribute thereafter

#### 2) Warangal Campaign

- Malik Kayas commanded the army
- Little resistance was faced and King of Warangal was easily defeated
- Annual tribute was imposed

#### 3) Dwarasamudra and Madurai Campaigns

- Again, Malik Kayas led during both campaigns

- The territories were looted and also war booty in form of gold, silver, elephants, etc was seized
- Protectorate over them was established and annual tribute imposed

### Importance

- Prepared the ground for annexation later during reign of Tughlaqs by weakening southern kingdoms
- Increased the influence of Delhi Sultanat over Peninsular India.
- Consolidated strength of the empire by the huge riches seized as war booty
- Cultural exchange between the Indo-Persian culture of north and southern culture, transmission of Islam to south, spread of sufrism were important outcomes

The deccan campaigns of Alauddin had not only important political outcomes, but also economic and cultural results.

Q.1 (b) How far do you agree with the statement that the Caliphate was the source and sanction of the legal authority of the Delhi Sultans. [10 Marks]

In order to rule over an Islamic state, the ruler had to obtain permission of the Caliph. But in case of Delhi Sultans, the Caliphate's permission was just a formality and it had no actual authority over the Sultanate.

### Caliph as Source & Sanction of Authority

- The authority, though nominal, of the Caliphate was established by following manner:
  - Obtaining manshur (letter of investiture) from Caliph
  - Having the khutba read in his name and issuing coins in his name
- Iltutmish was first sultan to obtain manshur from the Caliph
- Alauddin Khalji had also obtained a manshur, while Mubarak Khalji declared himself the Caliph

- Muhammad Tughlaq initially had coins struck and the khutba read in his own name
- But later, there were rebellions, and hence he got a manshur from the Caliph
- Hence, Caliph's manshur was largely used to legitimise the rule of the Sultans, especially during challenging times such as rebellion
- The Caliph had no real authority or control over the Delhi Sultanate
- In spite of manshur, Sultans like Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad Tughlaq governed state according to their own policies, not completely relying on the Sharia

Hence, Caliphate was at most, only a nominal source of authority of the Delhi Sultans without any real authority.

Q.1 (c) "Sher Shah Suri was a precursor of Akbar." Comment critically. [10 Marks]

Many policies of Sher Shah were later continued, with some improvisation, by Akbar and hence the former is often called precursor of the latter.

### Similarities between Sher Shah's and Akbar's Policies

- Centralised bureaucracy of Sher Shah was improved under Akbar
- Division of empire into sarkars and Parganas
- Revenue administration - methods of Zabti, rai, classification of land types and imposition of tax accordingly
- System of "dagh" and "hulija" was adopted by both
- Currency based on silver "rupayeh"
- Both involved in public works - Grand Trunk Road by Sher Shah; Fatehpur Sikri buildings by Akbar

## Differences

- Akbar had introduced superior "mansabdari" system
- Sher Shah ruled for a relatively shorter reign while Akbar ruled a long reign
- Literary works, painting, music were developed to new heights during Akbar's reign unlike Sher Shah's
- Akbar was a man of spirituality, investing himself in religious discourses of various religions at his Ibadat khana, ultimately founding the creed of Din-i-ilahi; no such aspect of Sher Shah is noticeable

Though, Sher Shah was a precursor of Akbar across many fields, the differences between the two were also quite stark.

Q.2 (a) "Prosperity breeds 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]

Alauddin Khalji strongly believed that prosperous people will be an idle lot and therefore may raise the banner of rebellion.

On the other hand, if people are left with as little wealth as possible, they will always be engaged and hence, won't revolt. This would ensure peace and stability in the empire.

### Economic Policy of Alauddin Khalji

#### 1) Administrative Reforms

- Among the four regulations in administrative reforms, Alauddin cancelled all the inam, wagf, milkh, idarat grants
- It was made to ensure that the nobles, ulema, etc had to work to earn a livelihood and hence remain engaged and don't have time to rebel against the sultan
- Further, barids (spies) were appointed to keep an

eye on the nobles, and nobles were mandated to seek Sultan's permission before associating with each other

## 27 Revenue Reforms

- All the intermediaries between the crown and yeoman farmer such as khuts, mugaddams, etc were divested of their duties
- They were reduced to status of ordinary peasants, had to pay similar taxes
- Land revenue was increased to 50% of produce - highest ever till then
- Land between Sunam, Samana in the west to Kal (Aligarh) in east brought under Khalisa (crown land)
- Officials like Amils, Mukarrifs appointed to collect revenue and their accounts were strictly checked to prevent corruption
- Barani says these measures reduced the Hindus into poverty and their women had to work in Muslim's houses to make a living

→ The peasants were forced to pay revenue in cash, so they had to sell their produce to the 'koshwariyas' right away and could only keep bare little

- This ensured cheap foodgrains but farmers earned very little

### 3) Market Reforms

- Prices in grain market was fixed at low rate, 'barids' appointed to inform about corruption - hence merchants couldn't make large profits

- The 'dalals' (middlemen) in the slave and horse markets were removed and state directly bought from the Multani merchants

### 4) Military Reforms

- Soldiers were paid in cash

- Salary could be kept low since prices of grains were low

- 'Dagh' and 'Huliyah' systems introduced to increase efficiency and reduce corruption

As it appears, Alauddin's economic policy of keeping the vast population poor appears to have worked out since there was no major internal rebellion in this period.

Q.2 (b) Muhammad bin Tughlaq was "a man with ideas far beyond his age." - elucidate. [15 Marks]

Muhammad Tughlaq was an innovator and with the aim of consolidating his rule, introduced many reforms which were not in vogue during his times.

### Muhammad Tughlaq's Ideas and Reforms

#### 17 Shifting of Capital to Deogiri

- In order to consolidate the Deccan, he announced the new capital to be Deogiri, now rechristened as Daulatabad
- He offered money to buy properties of Delhi-based nobles, gave them travelling allowance, offered lodging facilities at their arrival in Daulatabad
- This exodus happened during high summer, which caused hardship, the nobles faced homesickness away from Delhi and finally the soldiers revolted
- Ultimately the project was discarded

## 2) Expedition to Karachil and Khurasan

- Karachil (modern Kangra and Kulu regions in Himachal) were to be annexed by an army under Khusrav Malik
- But after capturing Jidya, the overenthusiastic army started marching towards Tibet, but ultimately defeated by the harsh winter
- It is said only 10 soldiers returned alive from the mission
- He also raised a huge army of 370,000, paying them one year advanced salary, buying expensive arms for expedition to Khurasan
- But this project was discarded owing to its impracticality

## 3) Agricultural Reforms

- Initially used officially decreed prices (Waj-i-farman) and officially decreed yields (Nirkh-i-farman) for revenue calculation
- These were artificially higher than actual yield and hence led to peasant revolts
- Situation developed into a farine between 1334-41

- To make amends, he introduced 'Sondhan' loans to farmers, introduced crop rotation, superior crops (wheat, dates, fruits)
- A state farm of 60 sq. miles was established under officials to make it a model farm
- Ultimately, all above ideas failed to boost agriculture owing to massive corruption and poor implementation

#### 4) Token currency

- Introduced token currency of alloy of copper and brass having same value as silver tanka
- It was easy to forge and as per Barani, "<sup>every</sup> ~~hol~~ Hindu household became a mint"
- Ultimately project was discarded and the coins were exchanged

Despite unique and innovative ideas, they were not suited to that age and hence most of Mohammed Tughlaq's ideas seem to have failed.

Q.2 (c) "The early medieval India saw many transitions." Explain [15 marks]

Earlier historiography largely neglected the study of early medieval India (750-1200 AD), terming it as a 'Dark Age' due to political disunity.

But recent trends have identified the uniqueness and transitory character of the early medieval period, which had many important elements.

### Political Transitions

- Since the defeat of Harsha, northern India saw rise of many independent kingdoms
- Three major powers during this period were Gurjara-Pratiharas in west, Palas in east and Rashtrakutas in south which competed against each other
- Towards end of 10th century AD, break up of Gurjara-Pratiharas gave rise to 'Rajput' principalities
- As shown by D.D. Kosambi and later R.S. Sharma, it was period of 'Indian Feudalism' - where political and military authority was dispersed among local landed

elites called samantas, rawat, rauta, thakkura, etc

- In south, unique 'local governments' propped up in the form of ur, sabha, nagarams in Chola kingdom

### Transitions in Society

- As observed from texts like Brahma Vaivarta Purana, various terms like 'gramadhama', 'gramachari', etc show phenomenon of 'feudal localism'
- As observed by Al-Biruni, societal difference between Vaishyas and Sudras tended to disappear
- There was a proliferation of castes due to feudal localism, peasantisation of Shudras and integration of tribals into varna order through land grants to Brahmanas
- Drafting of land grants and records gave rise to new caste of scribes called 'kayasthas'
- Women's condition deteriorated as they were confined to domestic sphere, pre-puberty marriages and advent of 'sati'

## Transitions in Economy

- As shown by R.S. Sharma, the period between 750-900 AD was marked by decline in trade, urban decay and 'monetary anaemia'
- Villages were self-sufficient and it was a closed economy, only luxury goods were traded long distance
- But post 900 AD, some revival of trade and urbanism occurred due to increase in agricultural production
- New market centers emerged (such as Nagapattinam in South, Osia in West), bhakti centers became urbanised like Mathura, Srirangam, Chidambaram, etc
- By 1300 AD, trade and urbanisation had revived a lot as known from accounts of travellers like Marco Polo

The early medieval period, through its transitions, bridged ancient India to medieval India, starting with the establishment of the Delhi Sultanat.

Q.4 (a) "Firoz Shah Tughluq was an enlightened and humane ruler and his administration is noted for the humanitarian measures that conducted to the prosperity and happiness of his people." Justify. [20 Marks]

Firoz Shah Tughluq sought to establish a welfare state and towards this end, undertook several measures worthy of appreciation.

### Humanitarian Measures of Firoz Shah

#### Agricultural Measures

- He wrote off sordhar loans given during time of Muhammad Tughluq and abolished many 'un-Islamic taxes'
- Introduced superior crops like grapes, sugarcane and promoted crop rotation
- Established many irrigation canals - such as one from Hissar-Firuz, drawing water from Sutlej and Yamuna rivers
- According to Shams Siraj Afif, area from Punjab to Delhi was experiencing agricultural boom and was richly populated
- He established around 1200 orchards in and around

Delhi, which enriched the state

### Public Works

- Apart from irrigation canals, he constructed wells, tanks, reservoirs at travel paths for travellers and merchants such as one near Hauz Khas
- Inns were constructed and provisioned with facilities for benefit of travellers
- Roads were free of criminals

### Education

- He was great patron of scholars like Barani and himself liked literature
- Established many Madrasas such as the Madrasa-i-Firuz-Shahi

### Public Welfare

- He established a department called 'Diwani Khairat' to take care of orphans, widows, old citizens
- He established hospitals (Dar-ul-Saya) which offered free medical care

## Drawbacks of Firoz

- Firoz, as expressed in his own autobiography, Futumat-i-Firoz-Shahi held orthodox views - and banned paintings of human figures, clothes of silk and brocade, ~~music~~ imposed jaziya on non-muslims
- Publicly burnt a Brahmana for preaching openly
- Loosened 'dagh' and 'huliyā' system - led to weakening of Army
- His appointment of slaves to high positions caused conflict with traditional nobles

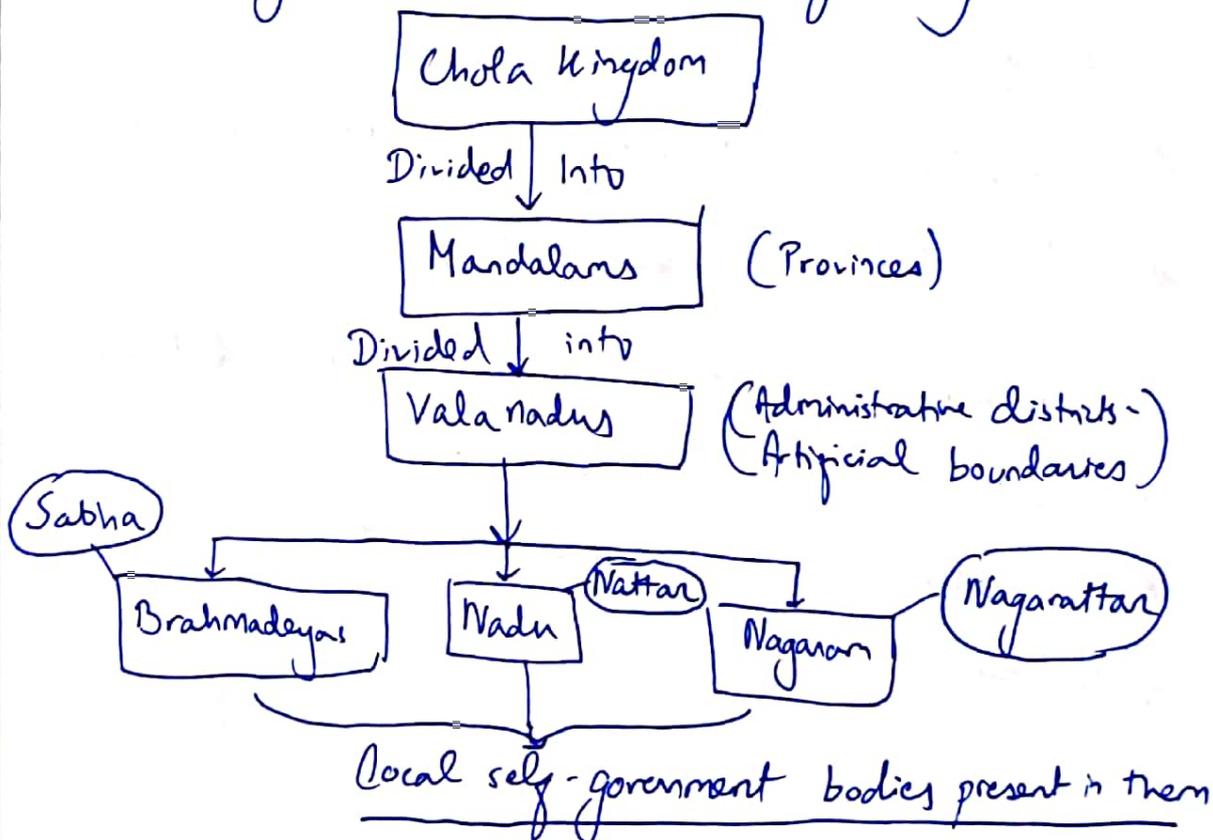
Despite some instances of narrow-mindedness, Firoz had a great dedication to ensure public welfare which is manifested in the elaborate projects taken up by him.

Q.4 (b) "Doubtless it was not a free state; it was any rate a state" (K A N Sastri). Reflect upon the nature of local self government institutions in the Chola kingdom. [15 Marks]

Nationalist historians such as KAN Sastri have exalted the Chola kingdom as a synthesis of centralised monarchy along with a vibrant self-governing institutions.

Local Self Government Institutions in Chola Kingdom

- Chola kingdom was divided in following manner



- Assemblies such as Sabha in Brahmadeyas, Nattar in Nadus and Nagarattar in Nagarams handled local affairs

- These assemblies created various committees (variyaras) that handled revenue collection, irrigation works, gold testing, implementation of king's orders such as demarcation of territory to be given as brahmadeya or devadanas
- Important information of their nature comes from the Uttaramerur inscription found in Kanchipuram, issued during Kulothunga's reign (10th century AD)
- There were various qualifications to be elected - based on land owned, educational status (vedas and mantra brahmana), character of person, honesty, age &
- Disqualifications were mentioned based on unethical acts like manipulation of accounts, incest, taking forbidden food, being foolhardy, etc and method of their removal mentioned
- The method of election (i.e. through 'pot-tickets') and term of the members (one year), cooling-off period (3 years) was mentioned

## Democratic Aspects of Local Governments

- Free and fair elections took place - as it happened in front of all to see at the village mandapa
- Fixed qualifications and disqualifications clearly mentioned in village constitution
- Decisions taken by assembly through mutual discussions
- King took decisions concerning villages after consulting with local assemblies

## Undemocratic Aspects

- Only men of dominant castes like Brahmanas in Brahmadeyas and Velalas in Nadus participated
- It was rather a selection <sup>lottery</sup> process since candidates were selected by a lot system
- King was not bound by their decisions and could bypass them - which often resulted in revolts

Despite not conforming to standards of a modern democracy, local self-government institutions experienced greater autonomy and democracy than their contemporaries.

Q.4 (c) "The period of Delhi Sultans saw the emergence of Indo-Persian culture in the field of the language." Comment. [15 Marks]

The unique synthesis of the Indian and Persian cultures is best manifested in the arena of language - that gave birth to the languages Urdu and Hindi.

### Evolution of Language

- The ruling classes of the Sultanat spoke Persian, while the commonfolk spoke local languages like Magharvi, Braj Bhasha, Rajasthani, etc.
- It is believed Urdu originated in the army camps of the sultans - the word itself meaning army camp in Persian.
- It was used for communication between the Persian speaking officials and locals who spoke local dialects.
- Hence it drew vocabulary from both Persian as well as local dialects of Magharvi, Braj Bhasha, Rajasthani etc.

- In its earlier days, it was called Zuban-i-hindawi or simply hindawi or rekhta (meaning synthesis)
- Since it was written in Persian and drew heavily the syntax, structure and grammar from it

### Development of Urdu

- Amir Khusrao is credited with development of Urdu as a literary language
- He wrote many verses, masnavis and literary works in Urdu
- His verses and couplets were sung at assemblies of kings and nobles
- He called himself 'Tuti-a-Hind' and took pride in speaking the Hindawi language
- Other famous writers of Urdu/Hindawi include Malik Muhammad Jaisi (wrote Padmarat), Mohammed Daud (wrote Chhandayan)
- The same language when written in the nagari

script came to be known as Hindi and was more drawn from vocabulary, syntax and structure from Sanskrit

- Later, after Delhi Sultanat declined, Urdu became popular in the Deccan Sultanates of Ahmadnagar, Bidar, Berar, Golconda, etc, where it experienced its next stage of evolution

### Other Languages

- Works in Persian were promoted by state and major works include Amir Khusrau's Dewan-e-Rani-Khizr Khan, chronicles like Banarsi's Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi
- Sanskrit works were translated into Persian - like the Tuti-Nama, Kalhan's Rajatarangini (Zaimul Abedin's reign)
- Unfortunately, no evidence of major translations from Persian to Indian languages is available

Therefore, the period under Delhi Sultans was a period of interaction of Indian and Persian languages.