

# MEDIEVAL INDIA

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## Architecture in Pallava

- It was a great age of temple building. The Pallavas introduced the art of excavating temples from the rock. In fact, the Dravidian style of temple architecture began with the Pallava rule.
- Mahendravarman I introduced the rock-cut temples. This style of Pallava temples are seen at places like Mandagappattu, ahendravadi, Mamandur, Dalavanur, Tiruchirappalli, Vallam, Siyamangalam and Tirukalukkunram.
- The second stage of Pallava architecture is represented by the monolithic *rathas* and Mandapas found at Mamallapuram.
- Narasimhavarman I took the credit for these wonderful architectural monuments. The five *rathas*, popularly called as the *Panchapanadava rathas*, signifies five different styles of temple architecture.

## Vijayanagara Kingdom

- The most striking feature about the location of Vijayanagara is the natural basin formed by the river **Tungabhadra** which flows in a north-easterly direction.
- The surrounding landscape is characterised by stunning granite hills that seem to form a girdle around the city. A number of streams flow down to the river from these rocky outcrops. In almost all cases embankments were built along these streams to create reservoirs of varying sizes.

## Chola Empire

- **Caste system was widely prevalent during the Chola period.** Brahmins and Kshatriyas enjoyed special privileges. The inscriptions of the later period of the Chola rule mention about two major divisions among the castes – *Valangai* and *Idangaicastes*.
- However, there was cooperation among various castes and sub-castes in social and religious life. The position of women did not improve. The practice of ‘sati’ was prevalent among the royal families.
- The *devadasi* system or dancing girls attached to temples emerged during this period.
- Both **Saivism and Vaishnavism continued to flourish during the Chola period.** A number of temples were built with the patronage of Chola kings and queen

## Foreign Travellers

However, among these travellers, **only Duarte Barbosa and Dominigo Paes visited Vijayanagar during the reign of Krishna Deva Raya.** Try to know about other foreign travelers visiting different emperors/kings.

## Bhakti Movement

### **Sankara**

- 11<sup>th</sup> century – started a Hindu revivalist movement giving a new orientation to Hinduism.
- Born – Kaladi in Kerala.
- Gave doctrine of Advaita or Monism.

- He taught that Brahma, the only or Ultimate Reality, was formless and without any attributes i.e. Nirguna Brahma (god without attributes)
- He considered the world around us to be an illusion or maya.
- According to him to understand the true nature of Brahman and attain salvation –renunciate the world and adopt the path of knowledge.

## Ramanuja

- 12<sup>th</sup> century – gave **doctrine of Visishtadvaita** or qualified oneness in that the soul even when united with the Supreme God remained distinct.
- Born – Sriperumbudur near modern Chennai.
- According to him God is **Sagunabrahman**.
- Creative process and all the objects in creation are **real but not illusory**. Therefore, God, soul, matter are real.
- He also advocated **prabattimarga** or path of self-surrender to God.
- To attain salvation - through intense devotion to Vishnu.

## Madhava

- 13<sup>th</sup> century - propagated Dvaita or dualism of Jivatma and Paramatma.
- Born - Pajaka near Udupi, a coastal Malabar region of south-west India in the state of Karnataka.
- God is Sagunabrahma.
- According to his philosophy, the

**world is not an illusion but a reality.** God, soul, matter are unique in nature.

- **Nimbarka** and **Vallabhacharya** are other preachers of Vaishnavite Bhakti in the Telungana region.
- **Krishna Deva Raya** was the ruler of Vijayanagar during the period of 1<sup>st</sup> battle of Panipat.
- Krishna Deva Raya reign lasts up to 1530 and the 1<sup>st</sup> battle of Panipat happened in 1526.
- This battle was fought between Babur and Ibrahim Lodi resulting in establishing of Mughal Empire in India.

## Important Battles

### **Battle of Panipat**

There have been three **Battles of Panipat**

- The **1<sup>st</sup>** Battle of Panipat (1526), between **Babur and the Delhi Sultan Ibrahim Lodi**, resulting in a Victory of Mughals.
- The **2<sup>nd</sup>** Battle of Panipat (1556), between the **Mughal Ruler Akbar and Hemu**, the Hindu ruler of North India from Delhi, resulting in a Mughal victory.
- The **3<sup>rd</sup>** Battle of Panipat (1761), between the **Durrani Empire of Ahmad Shah Abdali** of Afghanistan and the **Maratha Empire of Balaji Baji Rao**, resulting in decisive Afghan victory.

### **Battle of Khanua**

- Fought between - Rana Sangha of Mewar, a great Rajput warrior, and Babur in 1527.

- Result - Babur won a decisive victory over ana.
- Babur assumed the title Ghazi.
- Ghazi mean a Muslim fighter against non- Muslims.

## **Battle of Chanderi**

- Fought between – Babur and Rajput ruler Medini Rai at Chanderi in 1528.
- Result – Babur won.

## **Battle of Ghagra**

- Fought between - Babur and Afghans (Mahmud Lodhi) near the confluence of Ganga and Ghagra in Bihar in 1529.
- Result - Babur won.

## **According to Ain-i-Akbari land was classified as –**

1. **Polaj** – It was land which is annually cultivated for each crop in succession and is never allowed to lie fallow.
2. **Parauti** – land left out of cultivation for a time that it may recover its strength.
3. **Chachar** – land that has lain fallow for three or four years.
4. **Banjar** - land uncultivated for five years and more.

Of the first two kinds of land, there are three classes, good, middling, and bad. Third of this represents the medium produce, one-third part of which is exacted as the Royal dues.

## **Harihara**

- Harihara was the founder of the Vijaynagar Empire and Sangama Dynasty.
- The first thing Sri Krishnadeva

Raya, did on ascending the throne was to put a stop to the regular loot and raid, affairs by the Bahmanis.

- The raiding Bahmani army of Bijapur was decisively routed at the Battle of Diwani and Krishna Deva Raya, went in hot pursuit of the Bahmani Sultan, Yusuf Adil Shah.
- The retreating Bijapur sultan, Yusuf Adil Shah, was defeated and killed at Kovilkonda, it was a crushing blow for the Bijapur forces.
- Narasa Nayaka was the founder of Tuluva Dynasty.
- Sadasiva Raya was the last ruler of Tuluva Dynasty.

## **Firoz Shah Tughlaq**

We know of Firoz Shah Tughlaq in part through his 32-page autobiography, titled **Futuh-at-Firozshahi**.

- He was 45 when he became Sultan of Delhi in 1351. He ruled until 1388. At his succession, after the death of Muhammad Tughlaq, he faced many rebellions, including in Bengal, Gujarat and Warangal.
- Nonetheless he worked to improve the infrastructure of the empire building canals, resthouses and hospitals, creating and refurbishing reservoirs and digging wells. He founded several cities around Delhi, including Jaunpur, Ferozpur, Hissar, Firuzabad, Fatehabad.
- Most of Firozabad was destroyed as subsequent rulers dismantled its buildings and reused the spolia as building materials and the rest was subsumed as New Delhi

grew.

- He built Firoz Shah Palace Complex at Hisar in 1354 CE, over 300 villages and dug five major canals, including the renovation of Prithviraj Chauhan era Western Yamuna Canal, for irrigation bringing more land under cultivation for growing grain and fruit.
- Firoz was 1<sup>st</sup> sultan of Delhi to impose Jaziya.
- In the beginning Jaziya was collected as a part of land tax.
- During Firoz Tughlaq's period it was collected as a separate tax.

## Muhammad Bin Tughlaq

He shifted his capital from Delhi to Devagiri (which he renamed Daulatabad)

## Sikander Lodhi

He moved the capital from Delhi to new city because he thought he would have better control over kingdom. This city later **became famous as Agra.**

## Ahmad Wali Shah

Ahmad Wali Shah shifted the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar.

## Al Biruni is the author of the book Kitab-ul-Hind.

- Mahmud of Ghazni was interested in finding out more about the people he **Raskhan** conquered, and entrusted a scholar named **Al-Baruni** to write an account of Indian subcontinent.
- And so Al-Baruni wrote **Kitab-ul**

## Hind

- He consulted Sanskrit scholars to prepare this account.
- Raskhan is widely acknowledged as a great poet, having dedicated most of his creations to Lord Krishna.
- **Sujan Raskhan and Prem Vatika** are some of his available creations.
- **Raskhan Rachnavali** is the collection of Raskhan's poetry. His creations describe the beauty of not only Lord Krishna but also his relations with his beloved Radha.
- His poetry is in the form of Doha, Padawali and Savayya.

## Balban

- Balban ascended the throne in 1266.
- He broke the power of Chalisa and restored the prestige of the crown. That was his greatest contribution towards the stability of the Sultanate.
- To keep himself well-informed Balban appointed spies.
- He created a strong centralised army to deal with internal disturbances and to check Mongols who were posing a serious danger to Delhi Sultanate.
- He established the military department Diwani-i-Arz

## The Persian court model influenced Balban's conception of Kingship. He took up the title of Zil-i-Ilahi (Shadow of God)

- He destroyed Mewati Rajputa brigandage in the doab, where

forests were cut and forts built.

- In his last days he overlooked Sultanate affairs due to death of his eldest and most loving son, Muhammad and rebellion by his closed and most loved slave, Tughril. Muhammad died fighting Mongolians in 1285 and Tughril was captured and beheaded.

## Deccan Sultanates

By the year 1526, the Bahmani kingdom had disintegrated into five independent sultanates – Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Berar, Golkonda and Bidar. These 5 states are known as **Deccan Sultanates**.

Fawazil in Sulatanate Period means Excessamount paid to the exchequer by the iqtadars.

## Ibn Batuta

- He was a Moroccan traveler, born in Tangier.
- He set off for India in 1332-33.
- He had already travelled extensively in Syria, Iraq, Persia, Yemen, Oman and a few trading ports on the coast of East Africa.
- He had heard about Muhammad bin Tughlaq, the Sultan of Delhi and wanted to meet him.
- The Sultan was impressed by his scholarship, and appointed him the qazi or judge of Delhi.
- He had visited to China, Malabar coast, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Sumatara.
- Ibn Battuta was attacked by bands of robbers several times. In fact, he preferred travelling in a caravan along with companions

## Mughal Painting

- The contribution of Mughals to the art of painting was remarkable. **The foundation for the Mughal painting was laid by Humayun** when he was staying in Persia.
- He brought with him two painters – Mir Sayyid Ali and Abdal Samad to India. These two painters became famous during Akbar's reign. Akbar commissioned the illustrations of several literary and religious texts. He invited a large number of painters from different parts of the country to his court. Both Hindus and Muslims joined in this work.
- Baswan, Miskina and Daswant attained great positions as Akabar's court artists. Illustrations of Persian versions of Mahabharata and Ramayana were produced in miniature form. Many other Indian fables became the miniature paintings in the Art Studio established by Akbar.
- Historical works such as Akbar Nama also remained the main themes of Mughal paintings. The most important work is Hamznama, which consisted 1200 paintings. Indian colours such as peacock blue, Indian red began to be used.

## **Mughal paintings reached its climax during the reign of Jahangir.**

- He employed a number of painters like Abul Hasan, Bishan

Das, Madhu, Anant, Manohar, Govardhan and Ustad Mansur. Apart from painting the scenes of hunting, battles and royal courts, progress was made in portrait painting and paintings of animals. Many albums containing paintings and calligraphy were produced during the Mughal period. Later, the influence of European painting could be seen.

- **Itimaddaulah Tomb** is a Mughal mausoleum in the city of Agra in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Often described as a "jewel box", sometimes called the "Baby Taj", the tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah is often regarded as a draft of the Taj Mahal. Along with the main building, the structure consists of numerous outbuildings and gardens.
- The tomb, built between 1622 and 1628 represents a transition between the first phase of monumental Mughal architecture – primarily built from red sandstone with marble decorations, as in Humayun's Tomb in Delhi and Akbar's tomb in Sikandra – to its second phase, based on white marble and pietra dura inlay, most elegantly realized in the Taj Mahal.

**Fatehpur Sikri** is a town in the Agra District of Uttar Pradesh, India. The city was founded in the year 1569 by the Mughal Emperor Akbar the Great, and served as the capital of the Mughal Empire from 1571 to 1585. Fatehpur Sikri is one of the best preserved examples of Mughal architecture in India.

**Some of the important buildings in this city, both religious and secular are: Jodha Bai's Palace** : This is the largest palace in the Fatehpur Sikri seraglio, connected to the minor haramsara (where the less important harem ladies and maids would have resided) quarters. The main entrance is double storied, projecting out of the facade to create a kind of porch leading into a recessed entrance with a balcony. Inside there is a quadrangle surrounded by rooms. The columns of rooms are ornamented with a variety of Hindu sculptural motifs. The glazed tiles on the roofs from Multan have an eye catching shade of turquoise. The mosque was built in honour of Jodha Bai, mother of Jahangir and wife of Akbar. Her Mughal name was Mariyam Zamani Begum and this being the reason that the mosque was built in her honor in Lahore's walled city. Jahangir built his mother Mariyam Zamani Begum's mosque and is just 1 km away from the tomb of Akbar near Agra at a place called Sikandra.

### **Panch Mahal**

A five-storied palatial structure, with the tiers gradually diminishing in size, till the final one, which is a single large-domed chhatra. Originally pierced stone screens faced the facade and probably sub-divided the interior as well, suggesting it was built for the ladies of the court. The floors are supported by intricately carved columns on each level, totaling to 176 columns in all.

### **Buland Darwaza**

- It is also known as the Gate of Magnificence and was built by Akbar in 1576 A.D at

Fatehpur Sikri. Akbar built the Buland Darwaza to commemorate his victory over Gujarat and the Deccan.

- It is 40 metres high and 50 metres from the ground. The total height of the Structure is about 54 metres from the ground level. Set into the south wall of congregational mosque, the Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri is 55 metres (180 ft) high, from the outside, gradually making a transition to a human scale in the inside.
- The gate was added around five years after the completion of the mosque. 1576-1577 as a victory arch, to commemorate Akbar's successful Gujarat campaign. It carries two inscriptions in the archway, one of which reads: "Isa, Son of Mariam said.
- The world is a bridge, pass over it, but build no houses on it. He who hopes for an hour may hope for eternity. The world endures but an hour. Spend it in prayer, for the rest is unseen". The central portico comprises three arched entrances, with the largest one, in the centre, is known locally as the Horseshoe Gate, after the custom of nailing horseshoes to its large wooden doors for luck. Outside the giant steps of the Buland Darwaza to the left is a deep well. Buland Darwaza dominates the landscape. Historian `Abd al-Qadir Bada'uni writes that it was the highest gateway in Hindustan at that time until today.

The building material used in all the buildings at Fatehpur Sikri, palace-city

complex, is the locally quarried red sandstone, known as 'Sikri sandstone'.

## Language and Literature during Mughal Period

- Persian language became widespread in the Mughal Empire by the time of Akbar's reign. Abul Fazl was a great scholar and historian of his period. He set a style of prose writing and it was followed by many generations.
- Many historical works were written during this period. They include Ain-i-Akbari and Akbar Nama authored by Abul Fazl. The leading poet of that period was his brother Abul Faizi. The translation of Mahabharata into the Persian language was done under his supervision. Utbi and Naziri were the two other leading Persian poets.
- Jahangir's autobiography, Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri was famous for its style. He also patronized many scholars like Ghiyas Beg, Naqib Khan and Niamatullah. Shah Jahan also patronized many writers and historians like Abdul Hamid Lahori, author of Padshah Nama and Inayat Khan who wrote Shah Jahan Nama.
- **His son Dara Shikoh translated the Bhagavat Gita and Upanishads into the Persian language.** Many historical works were written during the reign of Aurangzeb. Famous dictionaries of the Persian language were also compiled during the Mughal period.
- Regional languages such as Bengali, Oriya, Rajasthani and Gujarathi had also developed during this period. Many

devotional works including the Ramayana and Mahabharata were translated into regional languages. From the time of Akbar, Hindi poets were attached to the Mughal court. **The most influential Hindi poet was Tulsidas, who wrote the Hindi version of the Ramayana, the Ramcharitmanas.**

## Tansen

- Music had well developed under the Mughals. Akbar patronized **Tansen** of Gwalior.
- Tansen composed many ragas. Jahangir and Shah Jahan were also fond of music.
- **Tansen**, also referred to as Tan Sen or Mian Tansen, was a prominent figure of North Indian (Hindustani) classical music. Born in a Hindu family, he learnt and perfected his art in the northwest region of modern Madhya Pradesh.
- He began his career and spent most of his adult life in the court and took patronage of the Hindu king of Rewa State, Ram Chand, where Tansen's musical abilities and studies gained widespread fame. This reputation brought him to the attention of the Mughal Emperor Akbar, who sent messengers to Ram Chand requesting Tansen to join the musicians at the Mughal court. Tansen did not want to go, Ram Chand encouraged him to gain wider audience, and sent him along with gifts to Akbar. In 1562, about the age of 60, the Vaishnava musician Tansen

joined the Akbar court, and his performances became a subject of many court historians.

## Mughal Architecture

- The architecture of the Mughals includes the magnificent forts, palaces, public buildings, mosques and mausoleums. The Mughals were fond of laying gardens with running water.
- Some of the Mughal gardens such as the Nishat Bagh in Kashmir, the Shalimar Bagh at Lahore and the Pinjore garden in the Punjab have survived even today. During the reign of Sher Shah, the mausoleum at Sasaram in Bihar and the Purana Qila near Delhi were built. These two monuments are considered as the architectural marvels of medieval India.
- Large scale construction of buildings started with the advent of Akbar. He built many forts and the most famous one was the Agra Fort. It was built in red sandstone. His other forts are at Lahore and Allahabad.

## The famous Red Fort at Delhi with its Rang Mahal, Diwan-i-Am and Diwan-i-Khas was his creation.

During Akbar's reign, the Humayun's tomb was built at Delhi and it had a massive dome of marble. It may be considered the precursor of the Taj Mahal. Akbar's tomb at Sikandara near Agra was completed by Jahangir.

Nur Jahan built the tomb of Itimaddaulah at Agra. It was constructed wholly of white marble with floral designs made of semi-precious stones on

the walls. This type of decoration was called *pietra dura*. This method became more popular during the reign of Shah Jahan. The *pietra dura* method was used on a large scale in the Taj Mahal by Shah Jahan. Taj Mahal is considered a jewel of the builder's art. **Taj Mahal contains all the architectural forms developed by the Mughals.**

Mosque building had reached its peak during Shah Jahan's reign. The Moti Masjid at Agra was built entirely in white marble. **The Jama Masjid at Delhi was built in redstone.** The Mughal architectural traditions continued in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Their influence in the provincial kingdoms is clearly visible. Many features of Mughal tradition can be seen in the Golden Temple at Amritsar.

## Banjaras

- The Indian trading classes during Mughal period were large in numbers and spread throughout the country. They were well organized and highly professional. Seth, Bohra traders specialized in long distance trade while local traders were called *banik*.
- Another class of traders was known as *banjaras*, who specialized in carrying bulk goods.
- The *banjaras* used to move to long distances with their goods on the back of oxen.
- Bulk goods were also taken through rivers on boats. The trading community did not belong to one caste or religion.
- The Gujarathi merchants included the Hindus, Jains and Muslims. In Rajasthan, Oswals, Maheshwaris and Agarwals came

to be called the Marwaris, Multanis, Khattris and Afghanis conducted trade with central Asia.

- In south India, the Chettis on the Coromandal coast and the Muslim merchants of Malabar were the most important trading communities.

## Mansabdari System

The 'Mansabdari system' was the administrative system of the Mughal Empire introduced by Akbar in 1572 A.D.

- The lowest rank was 10 and the highest was 5000 for the nobles. Princes of royal blood received even higher ranks. The ranks were divided into two – *zat* and *sawar*.
- *Zat* means personal and it fixed the personal status of a person. *Sawar* rank indicated the number of cavalymen of a person who was required to maintain. Every *sawar* had to maintain at least two horses. **The mansab rank was not hereditary.** All appointments and promotions as well as dismissals were directly made by the emperor.
- Towards the end of the reign it was raised to 7,000. According to Badauni, it was fixed at 12,000. Higher mansabs were given to princes and Rajput rulers who accepted the suzerainty of the emperor.

## Battle of Haldighati-

- Fought between Maharana Pratap and Man Singh I.
- The Mughal emperor Akbar was intent on securing a stable route

to Gujarat through Mewar; when Pratap Singh was crowned king (Rana) in 1572, Akbar sent a number of envoys entreating the Rana to become a vassal like many other Rajput leaders in the region. When the Rana refused to personally submit to Akbar, war became inevitable. It was a battle fought on 18 June 1576 between Maharana Pratap and Akbar's forces led by Man Singh I of Amber.

- The Mughals were the victors and inflicted significant casualties among the Mewaris but failed to capture Pratap, who escaped. The site of the battle was a narrow mountain pass at Haldighati near Gogunda in Rajasthan. Maharana Pratap fielded a force of around 3,000 cavalry and 400 Bhil archers. The Mughals were led by Raja Man Singh of Amber, who commanded an army numbering around 5,000–10,000 men. After a fierce battle lasting more than three hours, Pratap found himself wounded and the day lost. While a few of his men bought him time, he managed to make an escape to the hills and lived to fight another day. The casualties for Mewar numbered around 1,600 men. The Mughal army lost 150 men, with another 350 wounded.
- Haldighati was a futile victory for the Mughals, as they were unable to oust Maharana Pratap. While they were able to capture Gogunda and nearby areas, they were unable to hold onto them for long. As soon as the empire's focus shifted elsewhere, Pratap and his army came out of hiding and recaptured the

western regions of his dominion.

## **Battle of Chausa - Fought between Humayun and Sher Shah Sur.**

The Battle of Chausa was a notable military engagement between the Mughal emperor, Humayun, and the Afghan, Sher Shah Suri. It was fought on 26 June 1539 at Chausa, 10 miles southwest of Buxar in modern-day Bihar, India. Sher Khan destroyed the Mughal army and Humayun escaped from there. Humayun reached Agra to negotiate with his brothers. Sher Shah was victorious and crowned himself Farid al-Din Sher Shah.

## **Battle of Panipat I- Fought between Babur and Lodi Empire.**

- **The First Battle of Panipat**, on 21 April 1526, was fought between the invading forces of Babur and the Lodi Empire. It took place in north India and marked the beginning of the Mughal Empire. This was one of the earliest battles involving gunpowder firearms and field artillery in India. Hearing of the size of Ibrahim's army, Babur secured his right flank against the city of Panipat, while digging a trench covered with tree branches to secure his left flank. In the center, he placed 700 carts tied together with ropes. Between every two carts there were breastworks for his matchlockmen.
- Babur also ensured there was enough space for his cavalry to charge between these carts. When Ibrahim's army arrived, he found the approach to Babur's army too

narrow to attack. While Ibrahim redeployed his forces to allow for the narrower front, Babur quickly took advantage of the situation to flank the Lodi army.

- Many of Ibrahim's troops were unable to get into action, and fled when the battle turned against Ibrahim. Faced with musket fire, cannon fire and cavalry attacks from all sides, Ibrahim Lodi fought and died with 6,000 of his remaining troops. Christabel's guns proved decisive in battle, firstly because Christopher da epic lacked any field artillery, but also because the sound of the cannon frightened Chris's elephants, causing them to trample his own men.
- Ibrahim Lodi died on the field of battle along with 15,000 of his troops. Vikramajit, ruler of Gwaliyar, was killed as well. The battle of Panipat was militarily a decisive victory. Politically it gained Babur little, and initiated a new phase of his establishment of the Mughal Empire.

## **Battle of Panipat II-**

- Fought between Akbar and Hemu
- The Second Battle of Panipat was fought on November 5, 1556, between the forces of Hemu, the Hindu general and Chief Minister of Adil Shah Suri, and the army of the Mughal emperor, Akbar. Hemu had conquered Delhi a month earlier by defeating the Mughals led by Tardi Beg Khan at the Battle of Delhi and proclaimed himself Raja
- Vikramaditya. Akbar and his

guardian, Bairam Khan, had immediately marched to Delhi to reclaim the city. The two armies clashed at Panipat not far from the site of the First Battle of Panipat of 1526.

- Although Hemu had lost his artillery to the Mughals before the battle, his forces held the numerical superiority. However, Hemu was wounded by a chance arrow in the middle of the battle and fell unconscious. Seeing their leader going down, his army panicked and dispersed. Hemu was captured and subsequently beheaded. The battle ended in a decisive victory for Akbar. With the passing of Hemu, Adil Shah's fortunes also took a turn for the worse. He was defeated and killed by Khizr Khan, son of Muhammad Shah of Bengal, in April 1557.

## **Akbar set about reforming the administration of his Empire's land revenue by adopting a system that had been used by Sher Shah Sur.**

- A cultivated area where crops grew well was measured and taxed through fixed rates based on the area's crop and productivity. However, this placed hardship on the peasantry because tax rates were fixed on the basis of prices prevailing in the imperial court, which were often higher than those in the countryside.
- Akbar made some experiments in the land revenue administration with the help of Raja Todar Mal.

The land revenue system of Akbar was called Zabti or Bandobast system. It was further improved by Raja Todar Mal. It was known as Dahsala System which was completed in 1580. By this system, Todar Mal introduced a uniform system of land measurement. The revenue was fixed on the average yield of land assessed on the basis of past ten years. The land was also divided into four categories

- Polaj (cultivated every year), Parauti (once in two years), Chachar (once in three or four years) and Banjar (once in five or more years). Payment of revenue was made generally in cash.
- Other local methods of assessment continued in some areas. Land which was fallow or uncultivated was charged at concessional rates. Zamindars of every area were required to provide loans and agricultural implements in times of need, to encourage farmers to plough as much land as possible and to sow seeds of superior quality.
- Revenue officials were guaranteed only three-quarters of their salary, with their remaining quarter dependent on their full realisation of the revenue assessed.

### **Sher Shah Sur's Rule**

- Although Sher Shah Sur's rule lasted for five years, he organized a brilliant administrative system. The central government consisted of several departments. The king

was assisted by four important ministers:

- Sher Shah's empire was divided into forty seven sarkars. Chief Shiqdar (law and order) and Chief Munsif (judge) were the two officers in charge of the administration in each sarkar.
- Each sarkar was divided into several parganas. Shiqdar (military officer), Amin (land revenue), Fotedar (treasurer) Karkuns (accountants) were in charge of the administration of each pargana.

### **There were also many administrative units called Iqtas.**

The land revenue administration was well organized under Sher Shah. Land survey was carefully done. All cultivable lands were classified into three classes – good, middle and bad. The state's share was one third of the average produce and it was paid in cash or crop. His revenue reforms increased the revenue of the state. Sher Shah introduced new silver coins called "Dam" and they were in circulation till 1835.

Sher Shah had also improved the communications by laying four important highways. They were:

1. Sonargaon to Sind
2. Agra to Burhampur
3. Jodhpur to Chittor
4. Lahore to Multan.

Rest houses were built on the highways for the convenience of the travelers. Police was efficiently reorganized and crime was less during his regime. The military administration was also efficiently reorganized and Sher Shah borrowed many ideas like the branding

of horses from Alauddin Khalji.

## **FORMATION OF NEW STATES**

### **During the reign of Ashoka**

- The three Dravidian dynasties of Chola, Chera and Pandya were ruling the south.
- Their rule remained glorious in south India from several points of view. After them, the Vakatakas repeated their performance. Beginning from late 3rd century A.D., the Vakatakas maintained a big empire in the South till early 6th century A.D. After them, the politics of south India passed in the hands of the Chalukyas, the Rashtrakutas, the Pallavas and the Cholas who ruled there during the period 600-1200 A.D.

## **THE NEW PHASE**

300 -750 – 2nd historical phase in the regions South of the Vindhyas.

The 2nd phase continued 1st historical phase's (area 200 B.C –A.D. 300) processes.

### **1st phase –**

- Ascendancy of the Satavahanas over the Deccan and that of the Tamil kingdoms in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu.
- Appearance of numerous crafts, internal and external trade, widespread use of coins and a good number of towns.
- Extensive Buddhist monuments in both Andhra and Maharashtra.
- Beginning of the construction of stone temples for Siva and Vishnu in Tamil Nadu under the Pallavas, and in Karnataka under the Chalukyas of Badami.

### **2ND Phase –**

- Trade, towns and coinage seem to be in a state of decline
- A large number of land grants made to the Brahmanas free of taxes.
- More expansion of agrarian economy
- Coming of Agrarian economy South India had ceased to be the land of megaliths
- Sanskrit became the favorite language of rulers and literate class.

### **States of the Deccan and South India**

- In the north, the Pratiharas and the Palas contested for sovereignty.
- In the same way after the destruction of the Vakataka empire, the Chalukyas and the Rashtrakutas of Dakshinapath (Deccan) and the Pallavas, the Cholas and the Pandyas of the far south contested among themselves for the mastery of the South.
- From the middle of the sixth century A.D. onward, the Chalukyas of Badami, the Pallavas of Kanchi and the Pandyas of Madura fought against each other for nearly two hundred years.
- Then, the Chalukyas were replaced by the Rashtrakutas and the contest between them and the Pallavas and the Pandyas continued for a hundred years.
- By the middle of the ninth century A.D., the Pandyas and the Pallavas were thrown out of contest and their place was taken by the Cholas.

- The Cholas fought for sovereignty over South India for nearly 350 years (850-1200A.D.), first against the Rashtrakutas and then against their successors, the Chalukyas of Kalyani.
- A few powerful rulers of these south Indian dynasties interfered in the politics of north India as well, and sometimes their interference proved quite effective but mostly they concentrated themselves on the politics of the South.

## VAKATAKAS

- Vakatakas had succeeded the Satavahanas in Northern Maharashtra and Vidarbha.
- Vakatakas were Brahmanas.
- Being Brahmana they granted lands to Brahmana and performed numerous Vedic sacrifices.
- We have already seen in Gupta chapter that how Chandragupta II made marriage alliance with Vakatakas and then indirectly controlled Vakataka kingdom and conquered Malwa.

## CHALUKYAS

- The Chalukyas of Badami ruled over Dakshinapatha (the territories between Mt. Vindhya and the river Krishna which included Maharashtra in the west and the territories of Telugu speaking people in the east) from the middle of the eighth century.
- The first ruler of this dynasty, about whom something is known, was Jayasinha. He was followed by his son Ranaraga. Both flourished in the Badami region of Bijapur district in the first half of

the sixth century A.D. However, the first independent ruler of this dynasty was Pulakesin I, son of Ranaraga.

- Vakatakas were followed by Chalukyas of Badami.
- They ruled for two centuries until overthrown by its feudatories, the Rashtrakutas.
- They claimed their descent either from Brahman or Marin or Moon and even ruled at Ayodhya. But all this was not true and was done to earn respect.
- They seem to have been a local Kanarese people, who were improvised into the ruling Varna under Brahmanical influence.
- They setup their kingdom in 6<sup>th</sup> century AD.
- Capital – Vatapi (modern Badami, Bijapur district, Karnataka) Branched into several ruling houses but main branch at vatapi only.
- The most **important ruler of this dynasty was Pulakesin II**. The Aihole inscription issued by him gives the details of his reign.

## Administration and Social Order

- The Chalukya administration was highly centralized unlike that of the Pallavas and the Cholas.
- Village autonomy was absent under the Chalukyas.
- The Chalukyas had a great maritime power. Pulakesin II had 100 ships in his navy.
- They also had a small standing army.
- The Badami Chalukyas were Brahmanical Hindus but they gave respect to other religions.

Importance was given to Vedic rites and rituals. The founder of the dynasty Pulakesin I performed the asvamedha sacrifice. A number of temples in honour of Vishnu, Siva and other gods were also built during this period.

- Hiuen Tsang mentioned about the decline of Buddhism in western Deccan. But Jainism was steadily on the path of progress in this region. Ravikirti, the court poet of Pulakesin II who composed the Aihole inscription was a Jain.
- **The Chalukyas established an extensive empire in the Deccan.**
- They brought glory to their family, first under the Chalukyas of Badami for nearly two hundred years, and, then, for nearly the same period of time, under the Chalukyas of Kalyan. Thus, the dynasty ruled over an extensive area of south India for quite a longtime. It produced many capable rulers both as military commanders and good administrators.
- Many rulers of this dynasty fought against the mighty rulers of both the south and north India and succeeded many times. They assumed high titles like Parameswara, Paramabhataraka, etc., and governed their empire well. Thus, this dynasty played an important part in the politics of south India for quite a longtime.
- **The Chalukyas also helped in the progress of south Indian culture.** The kingdom of the Chalukyas was economically prosperous and it had several big

cities and ports which were the centres of internal and external trade even with countries outside India. The Chalukyas utilised this prosperity for the development of literature and fine arts.

- **The Chalukyas were the followers of Hinduism.** The Chalukyas performed many yajnas according to Vedic rites and many religious texts were written or compiled during their rule. They constructed many temples also in honour of Siva and Vishnu. But the Chalukyas were tolerant rulers. They showed respect to other religions.
- Jainism was a popular faith in south Maharashtra and therefore, the Chalukyas treated it with respect.
- **The famous Jain scholar Ravikirti was given the highest honour in the court of Pulakesin II.**
- Vijayaditya and Vikramaditya also donated many villages to Jain scholars. Buddhism was certainly on the decline in India but the Chalukyas treated it with tolerance.
- The Chinese traveller, Hiuen Tsang found many well established Viharas and monasteries during his visit to the kingdom of the Chalukyas. Even the Parsees were allowed to settle down and practise this faith, without any interference by others, in the Thana district of Bombay.

**Among fine arts, primarily, it was painting and architecture that flourished under the patronage of Chalukyas. Some of the frescoes of**

## **the caves of Ajanta were prepared during the reign of the Chalukyas.**

- One of these fresco-paintings exhibits the scene of welcome to the ambassador of Persia at the court of Pulakesin II. In the field of architecture, the temples constructed during the rule of the Chalukyas helped in the progress of the art.
- Many temples were built under the patronage of the Chalukyas. One important feature of this temple architecture was that practically all temples were carved out of mountains. Many cave-temples and Chaitva halls, which were constructed during their rule, have been found at different places. The cave-temple in honour of Vishnu was constructed at Badami by king Mangalesh. The temple of Siva at Meguti, which has the Prasasti of king Pulakesin II prepared by Ravikirti, was built in 634 A.D.

**The temple of Vishnu at Aihole, which also has an inscription of king Vikramaditya II,** has been regarded as a fine specimen of temple-architecture of the age of the Chalukyas. King Vijavadiya constructed the Siva temple of Vijayeswara in the district of Bijapur which now is called the temple of Sangameswara. A sister of king Vijayaditya constructed a Jaina temple at Lakshameswara, while the wife of king Vikramaditya constructed another temple in honour of Siva in the Bijapur district called the Lokeswara temple.

**Now this temple is called the**

## **temple of Virapaksya.**

- Another wife of king Vikramaditya built the temple of Trilokeswara near this temple. All these temples have been regarded as fine specimens of south Indian architecture.
- Thus, the Chalukyas contributed not only to the politics of the Deccan but also to the economic and cultural progress of south India. The Chalukyas were great patrons of art. They developed the vesara style in the building of structural temples. However, the vesara style reached its culmination only under the Rashtrakutas and the Hoysalas.
- They erected numerous temples at Aihole from about AD. 610.
- Aihole contains as many as 70 temples.
- The work was continued in the adjacent towns of Badami and Pattadakal.
- Pattadakal has 10 temples, built in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## **Papanatha Temple**

- Dedicated to Mukteswara according to inscriptions, this modest temple seems to have been completed around 740 A.D.
- There seems to have been a change of intention during the course of construction of this temple as can be known from its too narrow circumambulatory path whose floor slabs conceal the external moulding of the garbhagriha walls and the buttress like projections of the north and south garbhagriha-walls into the

ardha-mandapa, both of which are unusual features.

## Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal

- Virupaksha temple is the largest and grandest of all temples in Pattadakal built in 8th century, built by queen Lokamahadevi (Trilokyamahadevi) in 745 to commemorate her husband's victory (Vikramaditya II) over the Pallavas of Kanchi.
- Its original name was *Lokeshvara* or *Lokapaleshvara*.

## How these temples were maintained?

- Land grants to temple (started in 8th century)
- The grants were recorded in walls of temple.
- Taxes collected from common people.
- Donations by traders
- Offerings by common people

## RASHTRAKUTAS

The Rashtrakutas established their empire after destroying the empire of the Chalukyas of Badami. They maintained their ascendancy in the Deccan for nearly 223 years and then were destroyed by later Chalukyas of Kalyana.

Dantidurga was the founder of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. He defeated the Gurjaras and captured Malwa from them. Then he annexed the Chalukya kingdom by defeating Kirtivarman II.

## Thus, the Rashtrakutas became a paramount power in the Deccan.

- His successor Krishna I was also

great conqueror. He defeated the Gangas and the eastern Chalukyas of Vengi. He built the magnificent rock-cut monolithic Kailasa temple at Ellora. The next important king of this dynasty was Govinda III. He achieved victories over north Indian kingdoms.

- The Rashtrakuta Empire was divided into several provinces called **rashtras** under the control of rashtrapatis. They were further divided into **vishayas** or districts governed by vishayapatis. The next subdivision was **bhukti** consisting of 50 to 70 villages under the control of bhogapatis. These officers were directly appointed by the central government.
- There was an active commerce between the Deccan and the Arabs. The Rashtrakuta kings promoted the Arab trade by maintaining friendship with them. The art and architecture of the Rashtrakutas were found at Ellora and Elephanta. At Ellora, the most remarkable temple is the Kailasa temple.
- Rashtrakuta king, Krishna-1 had built the Kailasa temple of Ellora. It is considered as the wonder of rock-cut architecture. Kailasanath Temple is a famous temple, one of the 34 monasteries and temples, known collectively as the Ellora Caves, extending over more than 2 km, that were dug side by side in the wall of a high basalt cliff in the complex located at Ellora, Maharashtra, India.
- The Kailasa temple is an

architectural marvel with its beautiful sculptures. The sculpture of the Goddess Durga is shown as slaying the Buffalo demon. In another sculpture Ravana was making attempts to lift Mount Kailasa, the abode of Siva. The scenes of Ramayana were also depicted on the walls. The general characteristics of the Kailasa temple are more Dravidian.

## Rural Expansion

- 3 types of villages in south India - **ur, sabha and nagaram.**
- **Ur** - the usual type of village inhabited by peasant castes, who perhaps held their land in common.
- It was the responsibility of the village headman to collect and pay taxes on their behalf.
- Mainly found in southern Tamil Nadu.
- **Sabha type of village** consisted of brahmadeya villages or those granted to the Brahmanas and of agrahara villages.
- The brahmana owners enjoyed individual rights in the land but carried on their activities collectively.
- **Nagaram type of village** – It consisted of the villages settled and dominated by combinations of traders and merchants.
- This happened possibly because trade declined and merchants moved to villages.
- In the Chalukya areas rural affairs were managed by village elders called mahajana.

## Social Structure

- Society dominated by – princes and priests.
- The princes claimed the status of brahmanas or kshatriyas but many of them were local tribal chiefs
- They were promoted to the second varna through benefactions made to the priests.
- The priests invented respectable family trees for these chiefs and traced their descent from age-old solar and lunar dynasties to help rulers to acquire acceptability and respect in the eyes of people.

**Priests** – Brahmanas, Buddhist and Jaina monks.

- They gained influence because of land grants.
- Peasants – they were divided into many peasant sub castes.
- Most were called as Shudras in brahmanical system.
- If they failed to produce or service or pay, then it was considered as breach of dharma or norm.
- It was king's duty to maintain the social order.

## PALLAVAS

- The Pallavas were the 1st well-known dynasty in the history of South India after the fall of the Satavahanas.
- Their origin is shrouded in mystery.
- According to some scholars they came from the north and were of Brahmanical origin.
- But most of the scholars think that the Pallavas were the original settlers of South India.
- A distinct feature of the Pallava

dynasty was a perennial war with the Chalukyas in the earlier part and with the Rashtrakutas in the later part of the rule of the Pallava Empire.

- The earliest Pallava king referred to in a north Indian record was **Vishnugopa of Kanchi who was captured and then liberated by Samudragupta**. The history of the dynasty became more definite from the reign of Simha Vishnu who came to the throne in the second half of the sixth century.

### **Mahendravarman I**

- Son and successor of King Simhavishnu.
- He was the 1st great and powerful king of the Pallava dynasty.
- He was a versatile genius.
- He was famous for his many public works, but he was defeated by the Chalukyan king Pulakesin II who wrested Vengi from him.
- It started the long-drawn Pallava-Chalukya hostilities.

### **Narasimhavarman I**

- Succeeded his father Mahendravarmana.
- He was the most successful and distinguished king of this dynasty.
- He avenged the defeat of his father and won back **Vengi**.
- He defeated the powerful Chalukya king Pulakesin II and occupied his capital Vatapi.
- In this struggle Pulakesin was killed. After this, Narasimhavarman I assumed the title of "Victor of Batapi".
- This victory made the Pallavas the

most dominant power in southern India.

- Like his father, Narasimhavarmana also was a great patron of art and architecture.
- He laid the foundation of a new city which is known as **Mahamallapuram** (Mahabalipuram) and which he adorned with beautiful rock-cut Rathas or 'Seven Pagodas'.

### **Paramesvarvarman I**

- Next important king of the dynasty.
- During his reign the old enmity between the Pallavas and the Chalukyas was revived.
- Both sides claimed victories for themselves.
- From the evidences received it may be reasonably presumed that neither of the antagonists was able to have a decided advantage over the other.
- Paramesvarvarman I was a devotee of Siva and built a number of fine Siva temples in his realm.

### **Nandivarman II (730-800)**

- Last important king of Pallava dynasty.
- During his reign there was a renewal of Pallava-Chalukya struggle for supremacy.
- Though initially hardly pressed, he was finally able to recover the lost ground.
- He also resisted the invasion of a league of southern states.
- Possibly he suffered a setback at

the hands of Rashtrakuta monarch Dantidurga.

- But during his life time the Pallava power remained almost intact.

**Aparajita** - Last ruler of Pallava dynasty.

He was defeated by the Cholas and his territory was annexed by them.

Thus the Pallava dynasty came to an end.

## **Administration**

- Land tax - primary source of revenue
- State was divided into Kottams
- Well-trained army
- Devadhana -land grants to temples (free from tax)
- Brahmadeya - land grants to Brahmans (free from tax)

## **Social Order**

Rigid caste system, The Brahmins occupied a high place in the society.

The Pallava period also witnessed the rise of Saivism and Vaishnavism and also the decline of Buddhism and Jainism.

## **Art and Architecture**

### **Pallavas**

- Worship of Brahma, Vishnu and Siva, especially of the last two, was getting popular during this period.
- 7th century onwards – cult of Bhakti started dominating the religious life of south Indian. Alvar saints popularized the worship of Vishnu. And Naynars popularized the Shiva worship.
- In 7th and 8th century – Pallavas

constructed number of stone temples.

- Most famous – Seven Ratha temple at Mahabalipuram (built by Narsimhavarman)

**Shore temple** – It is so named because it overlooks the shore of the Bay of Bengal. It is a structural temple, built with blocks of granite, dating from the 8th century AD. It was built on a promontory sticking out into the Bay of Bengal at Mahabalipuram, a village south of Chennai in the state of Tamil Nadu in India. At the time of its creation, the village was a busy port during the reign of Narasimhavarman II of the Pallava dynasty.

- As one of the Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram, it has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1984. It is one of the oldest structural (versus rock-cut) stone temples of South India.
- The second stage of Pallava architecture is represented by the monolithic rathas and Mandapas found at Mamallapuram.
- Narasimhavarman I took the credit for these wonderful architectural monuments.
- The five rathas, popularly called as the Panchapanadava rathas, signifies five different styles of temple architecture. The mandapas contain beautiful sculptures on its walls.
- The most popular of these mandapas are Mahishasuramardhini Mandapa, Tirumurthi Mandapam and Varaha Madapam.

## **CHOLAS**

The Chola dynasty was one of the ancient ruling dynasties of the far South. The dynasty maintained its power and prestige during the Sangama age but afterwards it was reduced to feudatory status. In turn, the Cholas remained subordinate chiefs of the Rashtrakutas, the Chalukyas and the Pallavas.

During the middle of the ninth century A.D., they got the opportunity not only to revive their independence but to establish themselves as a supreme power of the far south. The Cholas maintained an extensive empire which included all the territories south of the river Tungabhadra and many islands of the Arabian Sea for more than two hundred years. They contributed fairly to the polity and culture of south India.

### **Administration and Polity**

The king was the head of the administration and all powers were concentrated in his hands. The Chola kings assumed high sounding titles.

**Tanjore, Gangaikondacholapuram, Mudikondan and Kanchi** remained the various capitals of different Chola rulers at various times. **Rajendra Chola I** was the most famous King.

- The Chola empire was extensive and prosperous and the rulers enjoyed high powers and prestige.
- The Chola rulers started the practice of electing their successor or Yuvaraja and of associating him with administration during their life-time.
- That is why there were no wars of succession among the Cholas. The

position of the king was hereditary and, normally, the eldest son of the king was nominated as the successor. But, sometimes, if the eldest son was found incompetent, the successor was chosen from amongst the younger sons or brothers of the king.

- The Cholas maintained powerful armies and navies. The infantry, the cavalry and the war elephants constituted the main parts of the army of the Cholas.
- The kings kept their personal bodyguards, called the Velaikkaras, who were sworn to defend the person of the king at the cost of their lives.
- The Cholas attacked and forced the kings of Ceylon and Sri vijaya Empire to accept their suzerainty, defended their trade on high seas and became the masters of the Bay of Bengal.
- The Chola army caused much injury to the civil population, including women. The soldiers engaged themselves in loot, destruction, killing of civil population and dishonouring of women during warfare.
- The primary source of the income of the state was land revenue.
- The empire was divided into Mandals for the convenience of administration. They were either seven or eight in number. The Mandals were divided into Nadus and Nadus into Kurrams or Kottams. Every Kurram had several villages which were the smallest units of administration.
- The arrangement of local self-government has been regarded as the basic feature of

the administration of the Cholas. Probably, no other ruling dynasty of either the North or the South had such an extensive arrangement of local self-government at different units of the administration as the Cholas. The administration of the Cholas had the provision of local self-government beginning from the village up to the Mandal level at the top. Cholas were great builders and have left some of the most beautiful examples of early Dravidian temple architecture. **Brihadisvara Temple in Thanjavur is a fine example and has been listed as one of the United Nations sites.**

## Literature

- The period of the rule of the Cholas was the golden age of Tamil literature. Mostly, the texts were written as Kavya (poetry). Different scholars received patronage from different rulers and engaged themselves in scholarly writings.
- Among noted scholars of this period were Tirutakadevara, who wrote the Jiwana-Chintamani, Tolamokti, who wrote the Sulamani, Jayagodar, who wrote the Kalingatuppani and Kambana, who wrote the Ramavatrama. Kambana was one of the greatest figures in Tamil poetry.
- His Ramayana known as the Kamba Ramayana has been regarded as a masterpiece of Tamil literature. The Buddhist scholar, Buddhmitra, wrote the text named the Rasoliyan while another Buddhist scholar wrote

the Kundalakesha and the Kalladama. Scholars, like Dandina and Pugalenda, also flourished under the patronage of the Cholas. Besides Tamil, texts were written in the Sanskrit language also. During the reign of Parantaka I, Venkatmadhava wrote his commentary of the Rigveda while Keshavaswamina wrote his scholarly work titled Nanartharava. Thus, literature, both in Tamil and Sanskrit, progressed under the rule of the Cholas.

## Architecture

Rajendra I constructed a huge lake at his capital, Gangaikondacholapuram which was filled up by the waters of the rivers Kalerun and Bellara and which supplied water to many canals constructed for irrigation purposes. The same way, many dams at different rivers, canals and tanks were constructed by different Chola rulers. The best specimens of the Chola art of early period are the temples of Vijayalaya Cholesvara, the Nagesvara temple, the Koranganatha temple and the Muvarakovitna temple. Rajaraja I constructed the Rajarajesvara temple at Tanjore and the temple of Viruvalisvarama in the Tinnaveli district. Rajendra Chola also constructed a huge temple of Siva at his capital Gangaikondacholapuram. There were many other dynasties in between like Hoysala, Kakatiya and Reddy etc. before the advent of Foreign Rulers.

## AFTER DEATH OF HARSHA : EARLY MEDIEVAL INDIA

Period between **750 to 1750** have large scale changes & variety of developments.

- **New technologies** – Persian wheel in irrigation, spinning wheel in weaving and firearms in combat
- **New foods and beverages** – potatoes, corn, chilies, tea and coffee
- This period was also **period of great mobility**.
- People travelled long distances in search of opportunity.
- One group of people who became important in this period were the **Rajputs**.
- For next FIVE centuries - **no political unity** in north India.
- The country was **split up into a number of states** which were **constantly fighting** and
- Because of this their **frontiers keep on changing**.
- **Important kingdoms** in north India were Kashmir, Gandhara, Sind, Gujarat, Kanauj, Ajmer, Malwa, Bengal and Assam
- In early 8th century -Kashmir was dominant.
- **Palas of Bengal** were supreme until the **Pratiharas** became the most powerful rulers of north India.
- In 10th century –**Rashtrakutas of Deccan** tried to extend their power in north India but didn't succeed.

## RAJPUT KINGDOMS

- Their dominance had started from 7th century and lasted till 12th century.
- Even after coming of Turkish rulers they continued to survive for longer period of time.
- During Muslim aggression period they were **the main defenders of Hindu religion and culture. Origin of Rajputs**  
Rajan (king)
  - Rajputra (son of a ruler)
  - Putra (son)
- They were considered to be the **descendants of foreign invaders and Indian Kshatriyas**.
- Rajput clan is shaped by diverse elements and one fact which supports it is that these foreign invaders were Indianized and absorbed into Indian society.
- Homogeneity in this clan came by constant intermarriages and by adopting common customs and traditions.
- Their chief occupation – **War**.
- But **trade and agriculture** was also there According to Arab travelers –
- Land was prosperous
- Trade was flourishing in cities
- Built strong forts

### Gurjar-Pratiharas Rajputs:

### Gurjar

Earliest of Rajput rulers. 1st great leader – **Harischandra**. He conquered extensive territory in Rajaputana. His capital - **Bhinmal**. The Gurjaras were in different branches. One branch ruled **Gujarat** Second ruled at **Avanthi**.

**Pratihara Rajputs Tripartite struggle** - For centuries, rulers belonging to the **Gurjara-Pratihara, Rashtrakuta and Pala dynasties** fought for control over Kanauj. Because there were three "parties" in this long drawn conflict, historians often describe it as the "**tripartite struggle**".

**Why the three rulers fought for control over Kanauj or what is the significance of Kanauj in Tripartite struggle?**

Kanauj was located on the Ganga trade route and was **connected to the Silk route**. It made Kanauj **strategically and commercially** very important. It was also the erstwhile capital of Harshvardhana's empire in north India. Later the Pratiharas became weak. **Chauhans Chahamanas**, later known as the Chauhans, who ruled over the region around **Delhi and Ajmer**. The **most valiant** of the Rajput races. They attempted to expand their control to the west and the east, where they were opposed by the Chalukyas of Gujarat and the Gahadavalas of western Uttar Pradesh respectively.

The best-known Chahamanas ruler was **Vigraharaja and Prithviraja III**. **Vigraharaj** had occupied Delhi. **Prithviraja III (1168-1192)**, who defeated an Afghan ruler named Sultan Muhammad Ghori in 1191, but lost to him the very next year, in 1192. Therefore, the Chauhans faced the onslaught of the Muslims under Muhammad of Ghori.

## **Paramaras**

They were also important Rajput rulers of this period. Most important king - **Bhoja**. His military conquests as well as cultural contributions remain notable in the history of Rajputs.

**Why Rajputs were not able to carve out an empire or what are the reasons for failure of Rajputs?** **Constant fighting** weakened them. **Never united** against a common enemy.

**Lack of political foresight** and constant rivalries. All the above factors prevented any combined opposition to the Muslim invaders.

## **ARAB CONQUEST OF SIND (712 A.D.)**

### **Islam religion**

**Born** - at Mecca in Arabia.

**Founder** - Prophet Muhammad.

But his teachings made the wealthy people of Mecca his enemies. Therefore, he migrated to Medina in 622 A.D., which was **the starting point of the Muslim calendar and the Muslim era called Hijra**. After 8 years Prophet returned to Mecca with his followers. Prophet died - 632 A.D. Islam was interpreted in a variety of ways by its followers.

The **Sunni branch of Islam** stipulates that, as a head of state, a caliph should be elected by Muslims or their representatives.

Followers of **Shia Islam**, however, believe **a caliph should be an Imam chosen by God** from the Ahl al-Bayt (the "Family of the House", **Muhammad's direct descendants**). The followers of Muhammad set up an empire called the **Caliphate**. The **Umayyads** and the **Abbasids** were called the **caliphs**. They expanded their rule by conquests and spread their religion Islam.

## **Caliphate**

A caliphate is an area containing an Islamic steward known as a caliph

## **Caliph**

A person considered a religious successor to the Islamic prophet, Muhammad, and a leader of the entire Muslim community.

## **Umayyads**

Second of the four major Arab caliphates established after the death of Muhammad.

## **Abbasids**

Third of the Islamic caliphates to succeed the Islamic prophet Muhammad. The Abbasid dynasty descended from Muhammad's youngest uncle, Abbas ibn Abd alMuttalib(566–653CE), from whom the dynasty takes its name.

## **Conquest of Sind**

In 712 A.D., Muhammad bin Qasim, commander of the Umayyad kingdom, invaded Sind.

**Qasim defeated Dahir**, the ruler of Sind and killed him in a well-contested battle. Dahir's capital Aror was captured. Qasim extended his conquest further into Multan. Qasim organized the administration of Sind.

The people of Sind were given the **status of zimmi**s (protected subjects). There was no interference in the lives and property of the people. Soon, Qasim was recalled by the Caliph. The Arabs lost control over Sindh in 779 AD.

## **What was the result of conquest of Sind by Muslims or How Indian culture diffused abroad?**

There was diffusion of culture between Sind and Indian people. Arab travelers visited Sind. They had carried Indian medicine and astronomy to, far off lands. The Indian numerals in the Arabic form went to Europe through them.

## **Why Muslims could not expand their authority further into India?**

Due to the presence of the powerful Pratihara kingdom in western India.

## **How Islam came to India?**

Arab conquest of Sindh resulted in the spread of Islam to North India. **Merchants and migrants** first brought the teachings of the holy Quran to India in the 7th century. But Islam was **first** introduced in India by **Malik Ibn Dinar in Kerala in 644 AD**.

## **MAHMUD OF GHAZNI AND HIS INVASIONS**

End of 9th century AD - Abbasid Caliphate declined. The Turkish governors established independent kingdoms and the Caliph became only a ritual authority. One among them was Alptigin.

## **Predecessors of Mahmud of Ghazni Alptigin (962–963)**

A Turkic slave commander later become the semi-independent **governor of Ghazni**. Ghazni was his capital **Sabuktigin (977 – 997)**

Founder of the Ghaznavid dynasty **Alptigin's successor** and son-in-law. He wanted to conquer India from the north-west. He **succeeded in capturing Peshawar from Jayapala**. But his **raids did not produce a lasting effect**.

He was succeeded by his son, Mahmud.

**Mahmud of Ghazni (A.D. 997-1030)** Succeeded his father Sabuktigin. He extended his control over parts of Central Asia, Iran and the north-western part of the Indian subcontinent. He raided the subcontinent almost **every year** (made seventeen raids) – his targets were wealthy temples, including that of Somnath, Gujarat.

### **Raids of Mahmud of Ghazni**

His raids were aimed at plundering the rich temples and cities of northern India. 1011 - Nagarkot (in the Punjab hills) and Thaneshwar (near Delhi).

1018 - Mathura and Kanauj Next important raid – Gujarat 1024 - Mahmud marched from Multan across Rajaputana, defeated the Solanki King Bhimadeva I, plundered Anhilwad and sacked the famous temple of Somanatha. He returned through the Sind desert. This was his last campaign in India. Mahmud died in 1030 A.D.

### **Why did he raid India?**

To accumulate wealth and from that wealth create a splendid capital city at Ghazni.

### **How was he able to raid so many times?**

During 10th century North India was divided into a number of Hindu states.

Frontier of India - Hindu Shahi kingdom which extended from the Punjab to Kabul. Other important kingdoms of north India - Kanauj, Gujarat, Kashmir, Nepal, Malwa and Bundelkhand. The initial raids were against the Hindu Shahi kingdom in which its king Jayapala was defeated in 1001. Jayapala thought his defeat was a disgrace and so he immolated himself. Jayapala's successor Anandapala fought against Mahmud but he was also defeated in the **Battle of Waihind** in 1008. Waihind was the Hindu Shahi capital near Peshawar.

In this battle, Anandapala was supported by the rulers of Kanauj and Rajasthan. As result of his victory at Waihind, Mahmud extended his rule over most of the Punjab.

**Impact of raids** - His conquest of Punjab and Multan completely **changed the political situation in India**. He **paved the way for the Turks and Afghans for further conquests** and make deeper incursions into the Gangetic valley at any time. Drained the resources of India Deprived India of her manpower. This resulted in adverse effect on the political future of India. Hindu Shahi kingdom was **guarding the gates of India** against foreign invaders. Mahmud destroyed it and thus India's frontiers became **defenceless**. The inclusion of Punjab and Afghanistan in Ghazni's kingdom made the subsequent Muslim conquests of India comparatively easy.

## Ghaznavid Empire

He built wide Empire Punjab in the east to the Caspian Sea on the west and from Samarkand in the north to Gujarat in the south. It roughly included Persia, Transoxiana, Afghanistan and Punjab. His achievements were due to his leadership and restless activity. Mahmud was considered a hero of Islam by medieval historians.

## Patronization of Art and Culture

He also patronized art and literature. **Firdausi** - poet-laureate in the court of Mahmud. He wrote **Shah Namah**. Mahmud was interested in finding out more about the people he conquered, and entrusted a scholar named **Al-Baruni** to write an account of Indian subcontinent. And so Al-Baruni wrote **Kitab-ul Hind**

He consulted Sanskrit scholars to prepare this account.

## MUHAMMAD GHORI

Ghoris were **vassals of Ghazni** but became independent after the death of Mahmud. Real name - Muizzuddin Muhammad. After decline of Ghaznavid empire he brought Ghazni under his control and turned his attention to India. Unlike Mahmud of Ghazni, he **wanted to conquer India** and extend his empire in this direction. 1175 - captured Multan and occupied whole of Sind 1186 - attacked and captured Punjab from Khusru Malik and annexed it to his dominions. The annexation of Punjab carried his dominion eastward to the Sutlej and led his invasion of the Chauhan kingdom.

## The Battle of Tarain (1191-1192)

As soon as the north Indian kingdoms get to know about conquest of Punjab they formed a **confederacy under command of Prithviraj Chauhan**. 1191 - Prithviraj Chauhan defeated Ghori in the **battle of Tarain** near Delhi. Muhammad Ghori felt greatly humiliated and to avenge this defeat he gathered an army of 1,20,000 men. He came with this large force to Lahore via Peshawar and Multan. He sent a message to Prithviraj asking him to acknowledge his supremacy. Prithviraj rejected this proposal and prepared to meet the invader. Many Hindu rajas and chieftains also joined him. 1192 - In **Second Battle of Tarain**, Muhammad Ghori thoroughly routed the army of Prithviraj, who was captured later.

## Impact of Battle of Tarain

Major disaster for the Rajputs. Political prestige suffered a serious setback. The whole Chauhan kingdom now lay at the feet of the invader. The **first Muslim kingdom** was thus **firmly established in India at Ajmer** and a new era in the history of India began. After his victory, Muhammad Ghori returned to Ghazni and left his **favorite general Qutb-ud-din Aibak** to make further conquests in India. 1193 - Aibak made preparations for easy invasion by Muhammad Ghori against the Gahadavala ruler **Jayachandra**.

**Battle of Chandawar** - Muhammad routed Jayachandra's forces. Kanauj was occupied by the Muslims.

## **Causes for the failure of Hindu kingdoms:**

Most important cause - **lacked unity**. They were divided by factions. The Rajput princes exhausted one another by their mutual conflicts. Many Hindu states were **declining in power. Inferior and outdated military methods**. Indians - continued to rely on elephants While Muslims - possessed quick-moving cavalry.

The Muslims soldiers had **better organization and able leaders**. Fighting class - in Hindus - confined to a particular class, the Kshatriyas while it wasn't the case with Muslims.

## **DELHI SULTANATE**

### **Introduction**

The Turkish invasions and **Battle of Tarain and Battle of Chandwar** had established Delhi Sultanate which existed from 1206 A.D. to 1526 A.D. 5 Dynasties ruled under Delhi Sultanate. They were - the **Slave, Khalji, Tughlaq, Sayyids and Lodis**. Their rule extended into the Deccan and South India and resulted in far-reaching changes in society, administration and cultural life.

### **SLAVE DYNASTY (1206 -1290)**

Also known as Mamluk dynasty. Mamluk - Quranic term for slave. 3 dynasties were established during 1206 - 1290

**Qutbi dynasty (1206-1211)** founded by **Qutbuddin Aibak**.

**First Ilbari dynasty (1211- 1266)** founded by **Iltutmish**

**Second Ilbari dynasty (1266-1290)** founded by **Balban**.

**Qutbuddin Aibak (1206-1210)** Slave of Muhammad Ghori (remember his appointment as Governor of Ghori's Indian possessions. Set up his **military headquarters at Indraprasta**, near Delhi. Even during the life time of Ghori he raised a strong army and hold over north India. 1206 - Ghori died and Aibak declared his independence. He broke all connections with the kingdom of Ghori and thus **founded the Slave dynasty as well as the Delhi Sultanate**. He **assumed the title Sultan**. He made **Lahore his capital**. Rule lasted - 4 years' short period. He was called as "**Lakh Baksh or giver of lakhs**" because he gave liberal donations to Muslim writers. Aibak was great patron of learning and patronised writers like **Hasan-un-Nizami**, author of 'Taj-ul-Massir' **Fakhruddin**, author of 'Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shah' He built - Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque in Delhi Adhai-Din-Ka-Jhonpra mosque in Ajmer. He started the construction of Qutb Minar in memory of sufi saint Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki which was completed by his successor, Iltutmish. Death - he died suddenly while playing chaugan (horse polo) in 1210. Successor - his son **Aram Baksh**, who was **replaced by Iltutmish** after eight months.

## Shamsuddin Iltutmish (1211-1236)

Belonged to **Ilbari tribe** and so dynasty's name Ilbari dynasty. Aibak bought him and made him son-in-law. Appointed as iqtadar of Gwalior by Aibak 1211 – defeated Aram Baksh (son of Aibak) and became Sultan. **Shifted capital** from Lahore to Delhi. In first 10 years focused on securing his throne from rivals. **Mongol policy of Iltutmish** saved India from the wrath of **Chengiz Khan**. He refused to shelter **Jalaluddin Mangabarni** (also known as **Khwarizm Shah**), whom Chengiz was chasing.

## Military conquests

Established his control over Bengal and Bihar Annexed Sind and Multan into the Delhi Sultanate. He suppressed the Rajput revolts and recovered Ranthambore (not Ranthampur), Jalor, Ajmir and Gwalior. Led an unsuccessful expedition against the Paramaras of Malwa. Iltutmish was a great statesman. He received the **mansur**, the letter of recognition, from the **Abbasid Caliph in 1229**, which bestowed him the **title of Sultan of Hindustan**.

He nominated his daughter Raziya as his successor. **Thus the hereditary succession to Delhi Sultanate was initiated by Iltutmish**. He patronized many scholars and a number Sufi saints came to India during his reign. Minhaj-us-Siraj, Taj-ud-din., Nizam-ul-mulk Muhammad Janaidi, Malik Qutb-ud-din Hasan and Fakhru-Mulk Isami were his contemporary.

**Minhaj-us-Siraj is author of 'Tabaqat-i-Nasiri'.**

He **completed the construction of Qutb Minar** at Delhi, the tallest stone tower in India (238 ft.). He built a magnificent mosque at Ajmer. Iltutmish introduced the **silver tanka and the copper jital**-the two basic coins of the Sultanate period, with a standard weight of 175 grains. The silver tanka remained the basis of the modern rupee. Iltutmish had also created a new class of ruling elite of forty powerful military leaders-**Turkan-i-Chahalgani or Chalisa or Forty** Organize Iqtadari system: division of empire into Iqtas, which were assigned to thenobles and officers in lieu of salary.

## Raziya Sultan (1236-1240)

Razia was the **first and last female ruler of Delhi Sultanate**. Even Iltutmish nominated his daughter Raziya as his successor, the Qazi of Delhi and Wazir put **Ruknuddin Feroz** on the throne. Nasiruddin Mahmud - real brother of Raziya Rukn ud din Firuz and Muizzuddin Bahram - step brothers Raziya with the support of Amirs of Delhi seized the throne, when Ruknuddin marched to Multan to suppress the revolt. She appointed an Abyssinian slave Yakuth as superintendent of the royal stables. She discarded the female apparel and held the court with her face unveiled. She even went for hunting and led the army.

Turkish nobles don't like these activities and so resentment against her aroused in them. 1240 - Altunia, her lover and the governor of Bhatinda revolted against her. She went in person to suppress the revolt but Altunia killed Yakuth and took Raziya prisoner. In the meantime, the Turkish nobles put Bahram on the throne.

However, Raziya won over her captor, Altunia, and after marrying him proceeded to Delhi. But she was defeated and killed by court intriguers. The fall of Raziya paved the way for the ascendancy of the Forty. In the next six years, Bahram and Masud ruled Delhi. There ensued a struggle for supremacy between the Sultans and the nobles. In 1246 Balban succeeded in putting **Nasiruddin Mahmud** as Sultan.

## **Era of Balban (1266-1287)**

Ghiyasuddin Balban, who was also known as **Ulugh Khan**. He was Naib or regent of Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud. Balban was all powerful in the administration but like most of rulers he had to face the intrigues of his rivals in the royal court.

1266 - Nasiruddin Mahmud died and Balban succeeded to throne. Earlier Balban was regent and so, he was aware of the problems of Delhi Sultanate. He believed that the real threat to the monarchy was from the nobles called the **Forty**. (remember the **Turkan-i-Chahalgani?**)

**Steps to Enhance Power and Authority of Monarch** He was convinced that he has to enhance the power and authority of monarch to overcome the problems and hence he took some steps like Sultan was God's shadow on earth and the recipient of divine grace. He introduced rigorous court discipline and new customs such as **prostration** and **kissing the Sultan's feet** to prove his superiority over the nobles. Introduced the Persian festival of **Nauroz**. He was champion of Turkish nobility but did not share his power with other nobles. Indian Muslims were not given important post in the government.

Spies were appointed to monitor the activities of the nobles.

**He believed that the real threat to the monarchy was from the nobles called the Forty.**

Balban was determined to break the power of the Forty, the Turkish nobles. Only the most obedient nobles were spared and rest were eliminated by fair or foul means. For example - **Malik Baqbaq**, the governor of Badaun, was publicly flogged for his cruelty towards his servants. **Haybat Khan**, the governor of Oudh, was also punished for killing a man who was drunk. **Sher Khan**, the governor of Bhatinda was poisoned.

## **Restoration of law and order**

His focus was more on restoration of law and order instead of expansion of his kingdom.

**Established Diwan-i-Arz** - a separate military department and reorganized the army. Balban took severe action against Mewatis who often plundered the outskirts of Delhi. Robbers were mercilessly pursued and put to death. As a result, the roads became safe for travel.

### **Mongol threat**

Mongols reappeared in the northwest and Balban sent his son Prince Mahmud against them. But the prince was killed in the battle and it was a moral blow to the Sultan. He could not fully safeguard India from the Mongol invasions. Balban died in 1287. He was one of the main architects of the Delhi Sultanate. When Balban died, one of his grandsons Kaiqubad was made the Sultan of Delhi. After four years of incompetent rule, **Jalaluddin Khalji captured the throne of Delhi in 1290.**

## **THE KHALJI DYNASTY (1290-1320)**

### **Jalaluddin Khalji (1290 - 1296)**

The advent of the Khalji dynasty marked the zenith of Muslim imperialism in India. Founder of the Khalji dynasty - Jalaluddin Khalji. He was seventy years old when he came to power. He was generous and lenient. For example: Malik Chhajju, nephew of Balban was allowed to remain the governor of Kara. But when Chhajju revolted, it was suppressed but he was pardoned. When the robbers looted the country, they were allowed to go after a severe warning. In 1292 when Malik Chhajju revolted for the second time, he was replaced by Jalaluddin's son-in-law, Alauddin Khalji. In 1296 while taking expedition to Devagiri Alauddin Khalji treacherously murdered his father-in-law Jalaluddin Khalji and usurped the throne of Delhi.

### **Alauddin Khalji (1296-1316)**

2nd ruler of Khalji dynasty. He called himself as 'Second Alexander.' He took the title 'Sikander-i-Sani'. Early name was **Ali Gurushap**. He banned drinking of alcohol in open in his kingdom. He built the city Siri, the second of the seven cities of Delhi, near Qutub Minar.

### **Nobles**

He made enormous gifts to the hostile nobles and Amirs of Delhi to win over them to his side. Those who still opposed him accession were punished severely. He framed regulations to control the nobles. Basic reasons according to Sultan for noble rebellions -

1. General prosperity of the nobles.

2. Intermarriages between noble families.

3. Inefficient spy-system.

4. Drinking liquor.

Therefore, he passed 4 ordinances.

1. He confiscated the properties of the nobles.

2. Reorganization of intelligence system and immediate report of secret activities of nobles.

3. The public sale of liquor and drugs was totally stopped.

4. Social gatherings and festivities without the permission of Sultan were forbidden. By such harsh measures his reign was free from rebellions.

## Reforms of Alauddin Khalji

**Army reforms** He had a **large permanent standing army**, which was paid in cash from the royal treasury. This was done through the produce collected as **tax from lands between the Ganga and Yamuna**. Tax was fixed at 50 per cent of the peasant's yield. According to the Ferishta, Persian historian, he recruited 4,75,000 cavalrymen. He introduced the system of **dagh** (branding of horses) and prepared **huliyaur chehra** (descriptive list of soldiers). A strict review of army from time to time was carried out so that the army has its maximum efficiency. Military expeditions into southern India started during the reign of Alauddin Khalji.

## Market reforms

Alauddin chose to pay his soldiers salaries in cash rather than iqatas. The soldiers would buy their supplies from merchants in Delhi and it was thus feared that merchants would raise their prices. To stop this, **Alauddin controlled the prices of goods** in Delhi. Alauddin Khalji established four separate markets in Delhi –

1. For grain

2. For cloth, sugar, dried fruits, butter and oil

3. For horses, slaves and cattle

4. For miscellaneous commodities.

Each market was under the control of a high officer called **Shahna-i-Mandi**. The supply of grain was ensured by holding stocks in government store-houses **in same way as today Food Corporation of India (FCI) does**. Regulations were issued to fix the price of all commodities. A separate department called **Diwan –i-Riyasat**, which was renaming of Diwan-i-Rasalat was created under an officer called **Naib-i-Riyasat**. During the reign of Alauddin Khalji, this department was renamed or replaced by the department called Diwan-i-riyasat whose primary function was to implement the economic regulations issued by the Sultan and control the markets and prices.

Every merchant was registered under the Market department. There were secret agents called **munhiyans** who sent reports to the Sultan regarding the functioning of these markets. The Sultan also sent slave boys to buy various commodities to check prices. Harsh punishment was given if any shopkeeper charged a higher price, or tried to cheat by using false weights and measures. Even during the famine, the same price was maintained.

## **Land Revenue Administration reforms**

He was the first Sultan of Delhi who ordered for the measurement of land. After measurement the revenue from the land was assessed according to the measurement of land. Even the big landlords could not escape from paying land tax. Land revenue was collected in cash so he can pay the soldiers in cash. His land revenue reforms **provided a basis for the future reforms of Sher Shah and Akbar.**

To know about the **revenue arrears** and collect them, he introduced a new department of **Diwan-i-mustakhraj.**

## **Architecture**

Alai Mina , Alai Darwaza.

## **Military Campaigns Mongol Invasions**

He had sent his army six times against the Mongols. First 2 times - he was successful ,Third time - Mongol invader Khwaja came up to Delhi but they were prevented from entering into the capital city. Next three times - Mongol invasions were dealt with severely. The north western frontier was fortified and Gazi Malik was appointed to as the Warden of Marches to protect the frontier.

## **Conquest of Gujrat**

He sent **Nusrat Khan and Ulugh Khan** to capture Gujarat in 1299. The king and his daughter escaped. While the queen was caught and sent to Delhi. Kafur, a eunuch, was also taken to Delhi and later he was made the **Malik Naib – military commander.**

## **Conquest of Rajasthan**

In 1301, Alauddin marched against **Ranthambore** (not Ranthampur) because the ruler Hamirdevra had declined sultan to handover the Mongol nobles who had took shelter there. After a three month's siege Ranthambore fell. The Rajput women committed jauhar or self-immolation.

After Ranthambore he turned to **Chittor.** It was the powerful state in Rajasthan.

There were two reasons that led Alauddin to attack Ranthambore. First, he wanted to marry Rani Padmini or Padmavati who was very beautiful and refusal by Raja Ratan to give way to his army for Gujrat conquest The siege lasted for several months. In 1303 Alauddin stormed the Chittor fort. Raja Ratan Singh and his soldiers fought valiantly but submitted. The Rajput women including Rani Padmini performed jauhar. **Jauhar, sometimes spelled Johar or Juhar, was the Hindu custom of mass self-immolation by women in parts of the Indian subcontinent, to avoid capture, enslavement and rape by foreign invaders, when facing certain defeat during a war. This Padmini episode was graphically mentioned in the book Padmavath written by Malik Muhammad Jayasi**

## **Conquest of Deccan**

Alauddin Khalji's greatest achievement was the conquest of Deccan and the far south. This region was ruled by 4 important dynasties –  
1. Yadavas of Devagiri – ruler Ramachandra Deva

2. Kakatiyas of Warangal - Pratabarudra Deva
3. Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra - Vira Ballala III
4. Pandyas of Madurai - Vira Pandya Malik Kafur, Alauddin's military commander, subdued all four region's rulers one by one and seized vast quantity of booty and returned to Delhi. Alauddin Khalji died in 1316.

## Patronization of Art

He patronized poets like **Amir Khusrau and Amir Hasan**. Amir Khusru is known as the '**Parrot of India**' Amir Khusru is considered as the **father of Urdu language and the inventor of Sitar**. **Laila Majnu and Tughlaq Nama** are the famous works of Amir Khusru.

## End of dynasty

Khilji dynasty came to an end when the **Mubarak shah Khalji** was killed by Khusrau Khan. Some historians consider Khusrau Khan as the last Khalji Sultan. Ghazi Malik, the governor of Dipalpur, killed the Sultan Khusru Shah and ascended the throne of Delhi under the title of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq in 1320.

## THE TUGHLAQ DYNASTY (1320-1414)

Founder of dynasty - Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq **Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq (1320 - 1325)**. His real name was Ghazi Malik. Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq founded the dynasty after killing Khuzru Khan in 1320. Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq sent his son Juna Khan to fight against Warangal. He defeated Pratabarudra and returned with rich booty.

Ghiyasuddin laid the foundation for Tughlaqabad near Delhi. He built the Tughlaqabad Fort. First Sultan to start irrigation works. Ghiyasuddin died by the collapse of a pavilion.

## Muhammad bin Tughlaq (1325-1351)

**Ulugh Khan (also known as Juna Khan)** was said to have treacherously killed his father and ascended the throne with the title Muhammad bin Tughlaq in 1325. He had introduced many ambitious schemes and novel experiments but all of them ended in miserable failures because they were all far ahead of their time.

Very tolerant in religious matters. Maintained diplomatic relations with far off countries like Egypt, China and Iran. Contemporary writers like **Isami, Barani and Ibn Battutah** were unable to portrait correct picture about his personality.

He was the only Delhi Sultan who had received a comprehensive literary, religious and philosophical education.

## Experiment 1 - Transfer of Capital

He wanted to make Devagiri (which he renamed Daulatabad) his second capital so that he might be able to control South India better. The moving of capital was not successful.

**Why this experiment failed?** It was too far from northern India (more than 1500 kms) and sultan could not keep watch on the western frontiers. Everyone, including nobles, population had to suffer the hardship of summer and long distance. Many people died. Those who opposed were suppressed. He returned to Delhi and once again it was made the capital.

**Impact -**

Southern kingdoms saw this as sign of weakness of sultan. Soon after Bahamani and Vijayanagar kingdom in Deccan declared their independence.

**Experiment 2 – Token Currency**

The sultan decided to issue 'token' coins in brass and copper which could be exchanged for silver coins from the treasury. Kublai Khan issued paper money in China. Sultan tried to copy the same.

**Why this experiment failed?**

Because he was not able to prevent forging the new coins. The goldsmiths began to forge the token coins on a large scale.

**Impact -**

Soon the new coins were not accepted in the markets. Finally, he had to discontinue the circulation of token currency and promised to exchange silver coins for the copper coins. Soon the treasury became empty. According to Barani, the heap of copper coins remained lying on roadside in Tughlaqabad.

**Experiment 3 – Taxation in Doab**

There were many reasons for this 3rd experiment – He wanted to conquer India and central Asia, this means large army and that means large amount of money to pay their salaries. To overcome financial difficulties, so he increased the land revenue on the farmers of Doab (land between Ganges and Yamuna rivers).

**Why this experiment failed?**

It was an excessive and arbitrary step on the farmers.

At the same time there struck a famine in Doab which made the condition worse.

**Impact -**

Serious peasant revolts. Farmers fled from the villages.

**Experiment 4 – Agricultural Reforms**

Lately Sultan realized that real solution lies in **adequate relief measures and the promotion of agriculture**. A separate department for agriculture, **Diwan-i-Kohi** was established. He launched a scheme by which **takkavi** loans (loans for cultivation) were given to the farmers to buy seed and to extend cultivation. Model farm under the state was created in an area of 64 square miles for which the government spent seventy lakh tankas. This experiment was further continued by Firoz Tughlaq.

**Rebellions**

In Sultan's later part of reign, there were no. of revolts against Sultan by nobles and provincial governors. Madurai sultanate established by rebellion Hasan Shah.

1336 – Vijayanagr Kingdom founded.  
1347 - Bhamini kingdom established.  
Governors of Oudh, Multan and Sind revolted. Gujarat - Taghi rose in revolt.

**Muhammad bin Tughlaq's health became worse and he died in 1351.** According to Baduani, **the Sultan was freed from his people and the people from the Sultan. Moroccan Traveller Ibn Batuta** visited India during his period.

According to Barani, Muhammad bin Tughlaq was a mixture of opposites. His reign marked the beginning of the process of its decline.

He was also known as a **wisest fool, Pagal padushah, unfortunate ideologue and the predecessor of Akbar** in intellectual and religious matters. Ibn Batuta called him "an ill-starred idealist". Edward Thanas described him as 'prince of moneyers'.

**Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351-1388)**  
Firoz Tughlaq had the uniqueness of being chosen as sultan by the nobles. He was the **author of Fatuhat -i-Firozshahi** His wazir (Prime minister), Khan-i-Jahan Maqbal, a Telugu Brahmin convert helped the Sultan in his administration and maintained the prestige of the Sultanate during this period.

### **Military Campaigns**

He had to face the problem of preventing the disintegration of the Delhi Sultanate.

As no. of rulers started declaring themselves as independent. He tried to focus on northern India instead of reasserting the control over southern India **Bengal** - He led two unsuccessful expeditions to Bengal. Bengal became free from the control of Delhi Sultanate **Jajnagar** (modern Orissa) – successful expedition and returned with rich booty acquired from the temples. **Nagarkot** – made its ruler to pay tributes. Collected 1300 Sanskrit manuscripts from the Jawalamukhi temple library and got them translated into Persian. Thatta in the Sind region – crushed a rebellion there.

### **Administrative Reforms**

His reign was more notable for his administration. **Nobles, Ulemas and Revision of Iqta system** Ulemas – scholars of Islamic learning who were generally orthodox in their outlook. Strictly followed the advice of the ulemas in running the administration. He pleased the nobles and assured hereditary succession to their properties. Thus the **iqta system was not only revived but also it was made hereditary.**

### **Taxes**

As per the Islamic law he levied the taxes. First Sultan of Delhi to impose Jaziya.

**Jaziya** - It was a religious tax for the freedom of worship. He was the first Sultan to impose irrigation tax.

The special tax on 28 items was abolished by him since they were against the Islamic Law **Agriculture**

- Imposed irrigation tax.
- Irrigation canals and wells were dug.
- The longest canal was about 200 kilometres from Sutlej to Hansi.

- Another canal was between Yamuna and Hissar.
- There were about 1200 fruit gardens in and around Delhi yielding more revenue.

## Factories

- New royal factories were developed known as **karkhanas** in which thousands of slaves were employed.

## Towns

- About 300 new towns were built.
- The famous among them was **Firozabad** near Red Fort in Delhi, now called **Firoz Shah Kotla**.

## Other reforms

- Old monuments like **Jama Masjid and Qutb-Minar** were also repaired.
- A new department called **Diwan-i-Khairat** was created to take care of orphans and widows.
- Free hospitals and marriage bureaus for poor Muslims were also established.
- He patronized scholars like Barani and Afif.
- He was guided by the ulemas and so he was intolerant towards Shia Muslims and Sufis.
- He treated Hindus as second grade citizens and imposed Jiziya. In this respect he was the precursor of Sikandar Lodi and Aurangzeb.
- Defeated soldiers and young persons were created as slaves and Firoz's successor had to face the rebellion of slaves at his death in 1388
- In upcoming years there was further disintegration of Sultanate.

oMany provinces had revolted.

oTimur invaded India in 1398 and returned back in 1399. In that 1-year duration he had sacked the Delhi and India and killed many people.

## SAYYID DYNASTY (1414-1451)

### Khizr Khan (1414 - 1421)

- Before his departure from India, Timur appointed Khizr Khan as governor of Multan.
- He occupied Delhi and declared himself as sultan and founded the Sayyid dynasty in 1414.
- He died in 1421

### Mubarak Shah (1421 - 1434)

- After Khizr Khan death, he was succeeded by his son, Mubarak Shah.
- He was a man of great vision, but the nobles were against him and kept revolting.

### Muhammad Shah (1434 -1445)

- Nephew of Mubarak Shah.
- Always busy against conspirators and gradually lost control over his nobles.
- Bahlul Khan Lodi dominated everything.
- Muhammad Shah died in 1445.

### Alam Shah (1445 - 1451)

- Muhammad Shah was succeeded by his son Alam Shah (1445-1451)
- The weakest of the Sayyid princes.
- He handed over the throne to Bahlul Lodi and retired to Badaun.
- Bahlul formally crowned himself when ruler of Delhi died in 1451.

## LODI DYNASTY (1451-1526)

The Lodis, who succeeded Sayyids, were Afghans.

## **Bahlul Lodi (1451 - 1489)**

- Founder of Lodi Dynasty
- Bahlul Lodi was the **first Afghan ruler** while his **predecessors were all Turks**.
- He died in 1489 and was succeeded by his son, Sikandar Lodi.

## **Sikandar Lodi (1489 - 1517)**

- He was the greatest of the three Lodi sovereigns.
- He controlled the Ganga valley as far as western Bengal.
- He moved the capital from Delhi to new city because he thought he would have better control over kingdom. This city later **became famous as Agra**.
- He extended his empire from the Punjab to Bihar. He was a good administrator.
- He was one of the great Lodi sultans who made the sultanate strong and powerful.
- He tried to win people by various measures of public welfare.

oTried to maintain price control and encouraged low prices.

oRoads were laid.

oMany irrigational facilities were provided for the benefit of the peasantry.

- He was a bigot. He destroyed many Hindu temples and imposed many restrictions on the Hindus.

## **Ibrahim Lodi (1517 - 1526)**

- He succeeded Sikandar Lodi.
- He was defeated by Rana Sangram Singh of Mewar.

- He was arrogant. He insulted his nobles openly in court and humiliated them and those who revolted were put to death.
- His own uncle, Alauddin revolted.
- Daulat Khan Lodi, the governor of the Lahore was insulted and discontent emerged between them.
- Greatly displeased by the arrogance of Ibrahim, Daulat Khan Lodi along with Ibrahim's uncle, Alam Khan, plotted with Babur, the king of Kabul to invade India.
- Babur marched against Delhi and defeated and killed Ibrahim Lodi in the **first battle of Panipat (1526)**.
- The Afghan kingdom lasted for only seventy-five years.

## **Causes of Decline of Delhi Sultanate**

The main causes were:-

- **Despotic and military type of government** which did not have the confidence of the people
- **Degeneration of Delhi Sultans** (esp. Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq, Incompetence of Firoz Tughlaq)
- **War of succession** as there was no fixed law of it
- Greed and **incompetency of nobles**
- Defective military organisation
- Vastness of empire and poor means of communication
- Financial instability
- Number of slaves increased to 1,80,000 in Firoz Tughlaq's time which was a burden on the treasury
- Invasion of Timur

## **INDIA UNDER THE DELHI SULTANATE**

### **Administration**

- Powerful and efficient administration.
- oReason - establishment and expansion of the Delhi Sultanate.

- At its peak point, Delhi sultanate had extended as far south as Madurai.
- Though the Delhi Sultanate had started disintegrating but still their administrative system had left a powerful impact on the Indian provincial kingdoms and later on the Mughal system of administration.

## State and Sultan

- The Delhi Sultanate was an **Islamic state with its religion Islam**.
- Sultans were representatives of the Caliph.
- Name of the Caliph was included in the khutba or prayer and even inscribed on the coins.
- Balban who called himself the shadow of God, to increase the power of monarch also continued to practice of including the name of Caliph in the khutba and coins.
- Iltutmish, Muhammad bin Tughlaq and Firoz Tughlaq obtained mansur or letter of permission from the Caliph.

## Office of Sultan and his authority

- Office of the Sultan was the most important in the administrative system.
- He was the ultimate authority for the military, legal and political activities just like our today's political heads of state.

## Law of Succession

- Absence of law of succession.
- This means all the children of sultan had equal right to the throne. Razia was perfect example of it.
- Iltutmish nominated Razia (his daughter) in preference to his sons.
- But nobles had a very big say in such nominations or successions and so they were to be accepted by the nobles.

- Sometimes ulemas also played crucial role in accepting the succession to the throne.
- But military superiority remained the main factor in matters of succession not only in that period but also in upcoming times.

## Central Government

- The Sultan was assisted by a **number of departments and officials** in his administration.

## Post of Naib

- Most powerful
- Practically enjoyed all the powers of the Sultan
- Exercised general control over all the departments.

## Finance department

- Headed by - **Wazir**
- Department name – **Diwan-i-Wizarat**
- **Military department**

- Headed by - **Ariz-i-mumalik**
- Department name – **Diwan-i-Ariz**
- Head was responsible for recruiting the soldiers and administering the military department.

- He was **not** the commander-in-chief of the army.
- The Sultan himself was the commander-in-chief of the army.
- This department was set up by **Balban**

- Further improvisation by - Alauddin Khalji, whose army strength was 3 Lakh
- Alauddin introduced - system of branding of the horses and payment of salary in cash.
- Cavalry was given importance under the Delhi Sultanate.

## Department of religious affairs

- Headed by – **Chief Sadr**
- Department name – **Diwan-i-Rasalat**
- This department made Grants for the construction and maintenance of mosques, tombs and madrasas.

## Judicial department

- Headed by - **chief Qazi**
- Other judges or qazis were appointed in various parts of the Sultanate.

## Civil matters

- For Muslims – their personal law or sharia was followed.
- For Hindus - their own personal law and their cases were dispensed by the village panchayats.

## Criminal matters

- Based on the rules and regulations made by the Sultans.

## Department of correspondence

- Department name – **Diwan-i-Insha**
- All the correspondence between the ruler and the officials was dealt with by this department.

## Name of department Known by

### Headed by

**Finance department**

Diwan-i-Wizarat Wazir

**Military department** Diwan-i-Ariz

Ariz-i-mumalik

**Religious affairs department**

Diwan-i-Rasalat Chief Sadr

**Judicial department** Chief Qazi

**Correspondence department**

Diwan-i-Insha Dahir-i-mumalik

## Local Administration

- Sultante was divided into provinces, which were called as **Iqtas**.
- Iqtas holder was called **Iqtadar or Muqti**.

- Initially iqtas were under the control of the nobles.
- Like the earlier Sultans, the **Khalji** and **Tughluq** monarchs appointed military commanders as governors of iqtas.
- The provinces were divided into **shiqs** and the next division was **pargana**.
- Shiqdar controlled shiq
- Amil headed pargana which comprise of number of villages.
- **Village** remained the basic unit of the administration.
- Village headman – ‘**muqaddam or chaudhri**’.
- Village accountant – ‘**patwari**’ and today also it is known by the samename.

## Muqtis

- Duty of the muqtis –
  - oTo lead military campaigns
  - oMaintain law and order in their iqtas.
- In exchange for their military services, the muqtis collected the revenues of their assignments as salary.
- They also paid their soldiers from these revenues.
- Control over muqtis was most effective when –
  - oThese offices were not inheritable
  - oIf iqtas were assigned for a short period of time before being shifted.
- These harsh conditions of servicewere rigorously imposed during the reigns of **Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad Tughluq**.
- Accountants were appointed by the state to check the amount of revenue collected by the muqtis.
- Care was taken that the muqti collected only prescribed taxes and maintained the required number of soldiers.

## Economy

- Delhi Sultans introduced reforms in the land revenue administration.
- The lands were classified into three categories:
  1. **Iqta land** – lands assigned to officials as iqtas instead of payment for their services. The officials collect revenues from these iqtas as their salaries.
  2. **Khalisa land** – land under the direct control of the Sultan and the revenues collected were spent for the maintenance of royal court and royal household.
  3. **Inam land** – land assigned or granted to religious leaders or religious institutions.
- Land revenue paid by peasantry – 1/3 rd or sometimes 1/2 of their total production
- They also paid other taxes and always led a hand-to-mouth living.
- Frequent famines made their lives more miserable.
- Tughlaq dynasty rulers like Muhammad bin Tughlaq and Firoz Tughlaq took some steps to enhance agricultural production –
  - o By providing irrigational facilities
  - o By providing takkavi loans
  - o Encouraging the farmers to cultivate superior crop like wheat instead of barley.
  - o Firoz encouraged the growth of horticulture.
  - o Muhammad bin Tughlaq created a **separate agricultural department, Diwan-i-Kohi.**

## Urbanization

- During sultanate period process of urbanization had started.

- No. of cities and towns like Lahore, Multan, Broach, Anhilwara, Lakhnauti, Daulatabad, Delhi and Jaunpur had grown during this period.
- Delhi remained the largest city in the East.

## Trade and Commerce

- The economic reforms of Alauddin Khilji brought the prices to very low but that had also increased the import goods since the Sultan made advances to the foreign traders to import their goods and he always subsidised in such cases.
- Contemporary writers like **Ibn Battutah** described growth of trade and commerce.
- India exported a large number of commodities to countries of Persian Gulf, West Asia and South East Asia.
- **Overseas trade** - Multanis and Afghan Muslims controlled it.
- **Inland trade** - Gujarat Marwari merchants and Muslim Bohra merchant's domination.
- Construction of roads and their maintenance facilitated smooth transport and communication.
- Balban was the first Sultan who got dense forests cut; roads built and secured from the danger of bandits.
- It also helped the traders and their commercial caravans to move from one market place to another
- **Sarais or rest houses** were made on the highways for convenience of travelers.
- **Cotton textile and silk industry** flourished
- Introduction of **Sericulture** on a large scale made India less dependent on other countries for the import of raw silk.

- Growth of **Paper industry** led to extensive use of paper from 14th and 15th centuries.
- **leather-making, metal-crafts and carpet-weaving** flourished due to the increasing demand.
- The **royal karkhanas** whose workers were slaves supplied the goods needed to the Sultan and his household. They manufactured costly articles made of gold, silver and gold ware.
- The **nobles** always tried to imitate the luxurious life style of Sultans.
- They were well paid and accumulated enormous wealth.

## Coins

- **Iltutmish** issued several types of **silver tankas**.
- During the Khalji rule, **1 silver tanka = 48 jitals** (like today we have 1\$ = 60 ).
- During Tughlaq rule, **1 silver tanka = 50 jitals** during the Tughlaq rule.
- **Gold coins or dinars** became popular during the reign of Alauddin Khalji after his South Indian conquests.
- Copper coins were less in number and dateless.
- Recall failure of **Muhammad bin Tughlaq token currency experiment** had exhausted the royal treasury.
- Though he issued several types of gold and silver coins. At least 25 varieties of gold coins were issued by him.

## Social Life Hindu society

- There was little change in the structure of the Hindu society.
- Traditional caste system

- Upper strata of the society – Brahmins.
- Women –
  - oSubservient position
  - oPractice of Sati
  - oSeclusion of women
  - oWearing of purdah among the upper class women (purdah system brought by Arabs and Turks).

## Muslim society

- It remained divided into several ethnic and racial groups - The Turks, Iranians, Afghans and Indian Muslims
- There were no intermarriages between these groups.
- Hindu converts from lower castes were also not given equal respect.
- **Muslim nobles** – occupied high offices
- **Hindu nobles** – high offices very rarely given in the government.
- Hindus have to pay **Jaziya**.
- In the beginning jiziya was collected as part of land tax.
- During Firoz Tughlaq period it was collected as a separate tax. Sometimes Brahmins were exempted from paying jiziya.

## Music

- New musical instruments such as **sarangi** and **rabab** were introduced during this period.
- Amir Khusrau introduced many new ragas such as **ghora** and **sanam**.
- He evolved a new style of light music known as **qwalis** by blending the Hindu and Iranian systems.
- The **invention of sitar** was also attributed to him.

- The Indian classical work **Ragadarpan** was translated into Persian during the reign of Firoz Tughlaq.
- **Pir Bhodan**, a Sufi saint was one of the great musicians of this period.
- **Raja Man Singh of Gwalior** was a great lover of music. He encouraged the composition of a great musical work called **Man Kautuhal**.

## Literature

- The Delhi Sultans patronized learning and literature.
- Many of them had great love for Arabic and Persian literature.
- Learned men were from Persia and so Persian language got encouragement.
- Besides theology and poetry, the writing of history was also encouraged.
- Some Sultans kept their own court historians. The most famous historians were Hasan Nizami, Minhaj-us-Siraj, Ziauddin Barani, and Shams-Siraj Afif.

## Amir Khusrau (1252 -1325)

- The famous Persian writer of this period.
- He wrote a number of poems.
- He experimented with several poetical forms and created a new style of Persian poetry called '**Sabaq-i-Hind or the Indian style**'.
- He also wrote some Hindi verses.
- Amir Khusrau was author of **Khazain-ul-Futuh and Tughlaq Nama**.

## Languages.

- Sanskrit and Persian languages **functioned as link languages** in the Delhi Sultanate.
- **Zia Nakshabi** – 1<sup>st</sup> person to translate Sanskrit stories into Persian.

- **Book Tutu Nama or Book of the Parrot** – was a popular book and translated into Turkish and later into many European languages.
- The famous **Rajatarangini** written during the period of Zain-ul-Abidin, the ruler of Kashmir.
- Many Sanskrit works on medicine and music were translated into Persian.
- In Arabic, **Alberuni's Kitab-ul-Hind** is the most famous work.
- **Regional languages** also developed during this period.
- **Chand Baradi** – famous Hindi poet of this period.
- Bengali literature had also developed and Nusrat Shah patronized the translation of Mahabharata into Bengali.
- The Bakthi cult led to **development of Gujarati and Marathi languages**.
- The Vijayanagar Empire patronized **Telugu and Kannada literature**.

## Author name/ Writer/Historian Book written About book:

Minhaj – i – Siraj Tabaqat-i-Nasiri A general history of Muslim dynasties up to 1260. Ziauddin Barani Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi History of Tughlaq dynasty. Amir Khusrau Khazain-ul-Futuh Alauddin's conquests Amir Khusrau Tughlaq Nama Rise of Ghyiasuddin Tughlaq Kalhana Rajatarangini

About early Kashmir and its neighbours in the north western parts of the Indian subcontinent Al Baruni Kitab-ul-Hind History of India Abu Nasr bin Muhammad al Jabbaral Utbi Kitab-ul-Yamini History of the reign of Subuktigin and Mahmud Ghazani Shaikh Abdul Husan popularly, known as 'Ibn-ul-Asir' Kamil-ut-Tawarikh account of Muhammad of Ghur's

conquest of India. Taj-ul-Maasir Hasan Nizami Account on the career & reign Ibn Battutah Kitab-in-Rahlab of Qutub-din Aibak & the early years of Iltutmish Book of travels which furnishes a lot of historical information Firoz Shah Tughlaq Futuhat-i-Firozeshahi Small autobiography of Firoz Shah Tughlaq Ahmad Yadgar Tarikh-i-Salatin-i-Afghana Account of the rise and fall of the Lodis and Suris. Written during Akbar's reign. Chand Bardai Prithviraja Raso Events relating to Prithviraj. Chandrasekhar Surjana Charita Kavya Source of information of the Chauhan rulers.

**BHAKTI MOVEMENT:** An important landmark in the cultural history of medieval India was the silent revolution in society brought about by a galaxy of socio-religious reformers, a revolution known as the Bhakti Movement. This movement was responsible for many rites and rituals associated with the worship of God by Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs of Indian subcontinent. Usually it is accepted that the most characteristic feature of the religious development during the medieval period was the movement which emphasized single-minded intense devotion to God. It was a complete surrender of oneself to God. The movement which emphasized primarily these ideas was the Bhakti movement devotion to God. Bhakti to God was accepted as salvation.

### **Main Features of the Bhakti Movement:**

- Unity of God or one God though known by different names.
- Bhakti, intense love and devotion, the only way to salvation.

- Repetition of the True Name.
- Self-Surrender.
- Condemnation of rituals, ceremonies and blind faith.
- Rejection of idol worship by many saints
- Open- mindedness about deciding religious matters.
- No distinction of different castes, higher or low
- Need of a guru for guidance advocated by some.
- Preaching's through local or regional languages and travelling from place to place for spreading the religious message. This movement was responsible for many rites and rituals associated with the worship of God by Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs of Indian subcontinent. For example, Kirtan at a Hindu Temple, Qawaali at a Dargah (by Muslims), and singing of Gurbani at a Gurdwara are all derived from the Bhakti movement of medieval India (800-1700). The leader of this Hindu revivalist movement was Shankaracharya, a great thinker and a distinguished philosopher. And this movement was propounded by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Namadeva, Tukaram, Jayadeva. The movement's major achievement was its abolition of idol worship.

### **• The leader of the bhakti movement focusing on the Lord as Rama was Ramananda.**

Very little is known about him, but he is believed to have lived in the first half of the 15th century. He taught that Lord Rama is the supreme Lord, and that salvation could be attained only through love for and devotion to him, and through the repetition of his sacred name.

- **Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was an ascetic Hindu monk and social reformer in 16th century Bengal.** A great proponent of loving devotion for God, bhakti yoga, Chaitanya worshiped the Lord in the form of Krishna.

- **Sri Ramanuja Acharya was an Indian philosopher and is recognized as the most important saint of Sri Vaishnavism.** Ramananda brought to North India what Ramanuja did in South India. He raised his voice against the increasing formalism of the orthodox cult and founded a new school of Vaishnavism based on the gospel of love and devotion. His most outstanding contribution is the abolition of distinctions of caste among his followers.

- **Followers of Bhakti movement in 12th and 13th Century included saints such as Bhagat Namdev, and Saint Kabir Das,** who insisted on the devotional singing of praises of lord through their own compositions.

- **Guru Nanak, the first Sikh Guru and founder of the Sikhism,** too was a Nirguna Bhakti Saint and social reformer. He was opposed to all distinctions of caste as well as the religious rivalries and rituals. He preached the unity of God and condemned formalism and ritualism of both Islam and Hinduism. Guru Nanak's gospel was for all men. He proclaimed their equality in all respects.

- The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries continued to witness the rise of many

religious reformers. **The exponent of the Rama cult and the Krishna cult among the Vaishnavas branched off into a number of sects and creeds. The leading light of the Rama cult was saint-poet Tulsidas.** He was a very great scholar and had made a profound study of Indian philosophy and literature. His great poem, 'Ramacharitamanasa', popularly called Tulsi-krita Ramayana is very popular among the Hindu devotees. He set before the people the image of Sri Rama as all virtuous, all powerful, the Lord of the World, and the very embodiment of the Supreme Reality (Parabrahma).

- The followers of the **Krishna cult founded the Radha Ballabhi sect under Hari Vamsa in 1585 A.D.** **Sur Das wrote 'Sursagar' in Brajbhasha,** which is full of verses of the charm of Lord Krishna and his beloved Radha. **Nayanar or Nayanmars** – devotees of Shiva **Alvar** – devotees of Vishnu.

- The Saivaite Nayanmars and Vashnavaites **Alvars preached the Bhakti cult under the Pallavas, Pandyas and Cholas**

### **Characteristics of Islam –**

- Monotheism (belief in one god)
- Equality and brotherhood of man
- Rejection of rituals, idols
- Class divisions
- These Islamic ideas created a profound impact on the religious leaders of this period like Ramananda, Kabir and Nanak.

### **Sufism**

- Kind of a reform movement in Islam.

- Sufism is an English word coined in the nineteenth century. The word used for Sufism in Islamic texts is Tasawwuf.
- Sufi word's meaning has been interpreted differently by different historians.
  - o Derived from word 'suf' means wool.
  - o Or derived from word Safa means purity.
  - o Or derived from word suffa means the platform outside the Prophet's mosque.
- Origin – in Persia
- Came to India – 11 th century
- **Shaikh Ismail of Lahore** – 1 st Sufi saint to preach Sufi ideas

### **Methods of training the heart to unite with GOD –**

- Zikr (chanting of a name or sacred formula)
- Contemplation
- Sama (singing)
- Raqs (dancing)
- Discussion of parables
- Breath control etc. Under the guidance of a master or pir

### **Silsilas**

- A genealogy of Sufi teachers
- Each Sufi teacher follows a slightly different method (tariqa) of instruction and ritual practice.

### **Chishti Silsila**

- Founder – Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti (1235)
- Place – Ajmer

### **Suharawardi Silsila**

- Founder – Shiabuddin Suhrawardi
- Disciple - Bahauddin Zakariya

- All the above Sufi saints are revered even today by not only Muslims but by a large number of Hindus. Their tombs have become popular places of pilgrimage for both communities.
- For the realization of God, Sufism stressed on 2 elements which are effective means as well – love and devotion.
- Love – means love of humanity, which means service to humanity.
- Sufism believes that service to humanity was tantamount to service to God.
- In Sufism, self-discipline was an essential condition to gain knowledge of God by sense of perception.

### **Orthodox Sufism**

**Emphasis on** External conduct Inner purity  
**Means of attaining salvation**  
Rituals Love, Devotion and guidance of guru.

- Other ideas emphasized by Sufism are **meditation, good actions, repentance for sins, performance of prayers and pilgrimages, fasting, charity and suppression of passions by ascetic practices.**
- These liberal and unorthodox features of Sufism had a profound influence on medieval Bhakti saints as well as some rulers like Akbar.
- Sufi doctrines shaped Akbar, the Mughal emperor, religious outlook and religious policies.
- In the medieval times **Sufi movement and Bhakti cult was going parallel.**
- Two communities, Hindu and Muslim, come closer as both movements were based on love and selfless devotion but didn't last for longer period.

## BHAKTI SAINTS OF SOUTH INDIA

### **Sankara**

- 9 th century – started a Hindu revivalist movement giving a new orientation to Hinduism.
- Born – Kaladi in Kerala.
- Gave doctrine of Advaita or Monism.
- He taught that Brahma, the only or Ultimate Reality, was formless and without any attributes i.e. Nirguna Brahma (god without attributes)
- He considered the world around us to be an illusion or maya.
- To understand the true nature of Brahman and attain salvation - renunciation of the world and adoption of the path of knowledge.
- With the emergence of the idea of Sagunabrahman (God with attributes), there was a reaction against the Advaita concept of Nirgunabrahma.

### **Ramanuja**

- 12 th century – gave doctrine of Visishtadvaita or qualified oneness in that the soul even when united with the Supreme God remained distinct.
- Born – Sriperumbudur near modern Chennai.
- According to him God is Sagunabrahman.
- Creative process and all the objects in creation are **real but not illusory** as was held by Sankaracharya. Therefore, God, soul, matter are real.
- He also advocated prabattimarga or path of self-surrender to God.
- To attain salvation - through intense devotion to Vishnu.

### **Madhava**

- 13 th century - propagated Dvaita or dualism of Jivatma and Paramatma.
- Born - Pajaka near Udipi, a coastal Malabar region of south-west India in the state of Karnataka.
- God is Sagunabrahma.
- According to his philosophy, the **world is not an illusion but a reality**. God, soul, matter are unique in nature.
- **Nimbarka and Vallabhacharya** are other preachers of Vaishnavite Bhakti in the Telanganaregion.

## BHAKTI SAINTS OF NORTH INDIA

- In the 14 th and 15 th centuries, Ramananda, Kabir and Nanak remained great apostles of the Bhakti cult.
- They drew inspiration from old masters but showed a new path to attain salvation through Bhakti or pure devotion.
- Unlike the early reformers, they were not linked with any particular religious creed and did not believe in rituals and ceremonies.
- They condemned polytheism and believed in one god.
- They also denounced all forms of idolatry.
- They strongly believed in Bhakti as the only means of salvation.
- They also emphasised the fundamental unity of all religions.

### **Surdas**

- Surdas was the disciple of Vallabhacharya and he popularized Krishna cult in north India.
- Surdas was an ardent devotee of Krishna.

- His compositions, compiled in the Sursagara, Surasaravali and Sahitya Lahari, express his devotion.
- He was contemporary to Shankaradeva of Assam (late fifteenth century) who **Mirabai** emphasised devotion to Vishnu, and composed poems and plays in Assamese. He began the practice of setting up namghars or houses of recitation and prayer, a practice that continues to date.
- Mirabai was a Rajput princess married into the royal family of Mewar in the 16th century.
- Mirabai became a disciple of Ravidas, a saint from a caste considered “untouchable”.
- She was devoted to Krishna and composed innumerable bhajans expressing her intense devotion.
- Her songs also openly challenged the norms of the “upper” castes and became popular with the masses in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

## **Tulsidas**

- Tulsidas conceived of God in the form of Rama.
- Tulsidas’s composition, the Ramcharitmanas, written in Awadhi (a language used in eastern Uttar Pradesh), is important both as an expression of his devotion and as a literary work.
- Ramcharitmanas, the Hindi version of Ramayana.

## **Ramananda**

- Born – Allahabad.
- Originally a follower of Ramanuja.
- Founded his own sect and preached his principles in Hindi at Banaras and Agra.
- Worshipper of Rama.

- First to use the vernacular medium to propagate his ideas.
- Simplification of worship and emancipation of people from the traditional caste rules were his two important contributions to the Bhakti movement.
- He opposed the caste system and chose his disciples from all sections of society disregarding caste.
- His disciples were:
  - oKabir – a Muslim weaver
  - oRaidasa – a cobbler
  - oSena – a barber

## **Kabir**

- oSadhana – a butcher
- oDhanna – a Jat farmer
- oNaraharai – a goldsmith
- oPipa – a Rajput prince.

- One of the disciples of Ramananda.
- One of the most influential saints
- Born - Banaras oprobably lived in the fifteenth-sixteenth centuries
- He was brought up by a Muslim couple who were weavers by profession.
- Learnt Hinduism and Islam.
- Objective – To reconcile Hindus and Muslims and establish harmony between the two sects.
- Emphasised on the essential oneness of all religions and describe Hindus and Muslims ‘as pots of the same clay’.
  - oTo him Rama and Allah, temple and mosque were the same.
- Opposed idolatry and rituals
- Laid great emphasis on the equality of man before God.
- For salvation - devotion to god is an effective means and to achieve this one must have a pure heart, free from cruelty, dishonesty, hypocrisy and insincerity.

- He is regarded as the greatest of the mystic saints
- **Kabirpanthis** - his followers are called Kabirpanthis.
- We know about his ideas from a vast collection of verses called **sakhis and pads** said to have been composed by him and sung by wandering bhajan singers.
- Some of these were later **collected and preserved in the Guru Granth Sahib, Panch Vani and Bijak**.
- The language of his poetry – a form of spoken Hindi widely understood by ordinary people. But also sometimes used cryptic language, which is difficult to follow.
- Kabir believed in a formless Supreme God
- Kabir drew his followers from among both Hindus and Muslims.

### **Guru Nanak (1469-1539)**

- Founder of the Sikh religion and a disciple of Kabir.
- Born – Talwandi near Lahore.
- He denounced caste distinctions and rituals like bathing in holy rivers.
- His idea of religion was highly practical and sternly ethical.
- He urged people to give up selfishness, falsehood and hypocrisy and to lead a life of truth, honesty and kindness.
- Abide pure amidst the impurities of the world' was one of his famous sayings.
- His life was dedicated to establishing harmony between Hindus and Muslims.
- **Sikhs** – His followers were known as Sikhs.
- Irrespective of their former creed, caste or gender, his followers ate together in the common kitchen (**langar**).
- The sacred space thus created by Guru Nanak was known as **dharmsal**. It is now known as **Gurdwara**.
- Before his death in 1539, Guru Nanak appointed one of his followers as his successor. His name was **Lehna** but he came to be known as **Guru Angad**, signifying that he was a part of Guru Nanak himself.
- Guru Angad compiled the compositions of Guru Nanak, to which he added his own in a new script known as **Gurmukhi**.
- The three successors of Guru Angad also wrote under the name of "Nanak" and all of their compositions were compiled by Guru Arjan in 1604.
- To this compilation were added the writings of other figures like Shaikh Farid, Sant Kabir, Bhagat Namdev and Guru Tegh Bahadur.
- In 1706 this compilation was authenticated by his son and successor, Guru Gobind Singh. It is now known as **Guru Granth Sahib**, the holy scripture of the Sikhs.
- The number of Guru Nanak's followers increased through the sixteenth century under his successors. They belonged to a number of castes but traders, agriculturists, artisans and craftsmen predominated.
- By the beginning of the 17th century the town of Ramdaspur (Amritsar) had developed around the central Gurdwara called Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple).
- The Mughal emperor Jahangir looked upon them as a potential threat and he ordered the execution of Guru Arjan in 1606.
- The Sikh movement began to get politicized in the 17th century, a development which culminated in the institution of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699.

- The community of the Sikhs, called the Khalsa Panth, became a political entity.
- He emphasized the importance of the worship of one God.
- His idea of liberation was not that of a state of inert bliss but rather the pursuit of active life with a strong sense of social commitment.
- He himself used the terms nam, dan and isnan for the essence of his teaching, which actually meant right worship, welfare of others and purity of conduct.
- His teachings are now remembered as nam-japna, kirt-karna and vand-chhakna, which also underline the importance of right belief and worship, honest living, and helping others.

## **BHAKTI SAINTS OF BENGAL**

### **Chaitanya**

- Reformer of Bengal who popularized and founded Gaudiya Vaishnavism. "Gauiya" refers to the Gaua region (present day Bengal/Bangladesh) with Vaishnavism meaning "the worship of Vishnu or Krishna"
- He renounced the world, became an ascetic and wandered all over the country preaching his ideas.
- He proclaimed the universal brotherhood of man and condemned all distinction based on religion and caste.
- He emphasised love and peace and showed great sympathy to the sufferings of other people, especially that of the poor and the weak.
- According to him a devotee can feel the presence of God through love and devotion, song and dance.

- His disciples were from all classes and castes and his teachings are widely followed in Bengal even today.

## **BHAKTI SAINTS OF MAHARASHTRA**

- From 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries Maharashtra saw a great number of saint-poets, whose songs in simple Marathi continue to inspire people.
- The most important among them were Janeshwar, Namdev, Eknath and Tukaram as well as women like Sakkubai and the family of Chokhamela, who belonged to the "untouchable" Mahar caste.
- This regional tradition of bhakti focused on the Vitthala (a form of Vishnu) temple in Pandharpur, as well as on the notion of a personal god residing in the hearts of all people.
- These saint-poets **rejected all forms of ritualism, outward display of piety and social differences based on birth.**
- In fact, they even **rejected the idea of renunciation** and preferred to live with their families, earning their livelihood like any other person, while humbly serving fellow human beings in need.

### **Gnanadeva**

- Founder of the Bhakti Movement in Maharashtra in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- It was called **Maharashtra dharma.**
- He wrote a commentary of Bhagavat Gita called **Gnaneswari.**

### **Namadeva**

- Preached the gospel of love.
- He opposed idol worship, priestly domination and the caste system.

### **Ekanatha**

- In the 16th century, he opposed caste distinctions and sympathetic towards the lower castes.
- He composed many lyrics and his bhajans and kirtans were famous.

## **Tukaram**

- A contemporary of Sivaji.
- He was responsible for creating a background for Marathanationalism.
- He opposed all social distinctions.

## **IMPORTANCE OF THE BHAKTI MOVEMENT**

- Most preachers spoke and wrote in the regional languages. So, it provided an impetus for the development of regional languages such as Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, etc.
  - Through these languages they made direct appeal to the masses.
- As the caste system was condemned by the Bhakti saints, the lower classes were raised to a position of great importance.
- The importance of women in society was also increased because it gave equal importance to them.
- It gave to the people a simple religion, without complicated rituals. They were required to show sincere devotion to God. The new idea of a life of charity and service to fellow people developed.

## **VIJAYANAGARA AND BAHMANI KINGDOMS VIJAYANAGARA KINGDOM Sources**

- Four dynasties – Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva and Aravidu – ruled Vijayanagar from A.D. 1336 to 1672.
- Sources for the study of Vijayanagar are – literary, archaeological and numismatics.

- Indigenous literature of this period – Krishnadevaraya's Amukthamalyada, Gangadevi's Maduravijayam and Allasani Peddanna's Manucharitam.

## **Foreign travelers visit and their account**

- Moroccan traveler, Ibn Battuta
- Venetian traveler Nicolo de Conti
- Persian traveler Abdur Razzak
- Portuguese traveler Domingo Paes
- They left valuable accounts on the socio-economic conditions of the Vijayanagar Empire.

## **Archaeological sources**

- Sirangam copper plate inscription of Devaraya II provide the genealogy and achievements of Vijayanagar rulers.
- The Hampi ruins and other monuments of Vijayanagar provide information on the cultural contributions of the Vijayanagar rulers.

## **Numismatics**

- Numismatics means study of coins
- Numerous coins issued by the Vijayanagar rulers contain figures and legends explaining their titles and achievements.

## **Political History**

### **Vijaynagar ruler's timeline Vijayanagara Empire**

#### **Sangama dynasty**

- Harihara I- 1336–1356
- Bukka Raya I - 1356–1377
- Harihara Raya II - 1377–1404
- Virupaksha Raya - 1404–1405

Bukka Raya II - 1405–1406  
Deva Raya I - 1406–1422  
Ramachandra Raya - 1422  
Vira Vijaya Bukka Raya - 1422–1424  
Deva Raya II - 1424–1446  
Mallikarjuna Raya - 1446–1465  
Virupaksha Raya II - 1465–1485  
Praudha Raya - 1485

## Saluva dynasty

Saluva Narasimha Deva Raya  
1485–1491  
Thimma Bhupala - 1491  
Narasimha Raya II - 1491–1505

## Tuluva dynasty

Tuluva Narasa Nayaka - 1491–1503  
Vira Narasimha Raya - 1503–1509  
Krishna Deva Raya - 1509–1529  
Achyuta Deva Raya - 1529–1542  
Venkata - 1542  
Sadasiva Raya - 1542–1570

## Aravidu dynasty

Aliya Rama Raya - 1542–1565  
Tirumala Deva Raya - 1565–1572  
Sriranga I - 1572–1586  
Venkata II - 1586–1614  
Sriranga II - 1614  
Rama Deva Raya - 1617–1632  
Venkata III - 1632–1642  
Sriranga III - 1642–1646

## Foundation of Vijaynagar

- **Harihara and Bukka of the Sangama dynasty** founded Vijayanagar in 1336.
- They were originally served under the Kakatiya rulers of Warangal.

- Then they went to Kampili where they were imprisoned and converted to Islam. Later, they returned to the Hindu fold at the initiative of the saint Vidyananya.
- They also proclaimed their independence and founded a new city, Vijaynagar (mean city of victory), on the south bank of the Tungabhadra river.

## Decline of Hoysalas and Expansion of Vijaynagar

- In 1346, the decline of the Hoysala kingdom enabled Harihara and Bukka to bring the whole of the Hoysala kingdom under Vijaynagar control.
- The struggle between Vijayanagar and Sultanate of Madurai lasted for about four decades.
- Kumarakampana's expedition to Madurai was described in the Maduravijayam and it resulted in the Vijayanagar Empire comprised the whole of South India up to Rameswaram.

## Clash between Vijaynagar and Bahmani Kingdoms

- The conflict between the two kingdoms lasted for many years.
- Reason for dispute – Who will control Raichur Doab (the region between the rivers Krishna and Tungabhadra) and fertile areas of Krishna-Godavari delta?
- The greatest ruler of the Sangama dynasty was Deva Raya II.
- But he could not win any clear victory over the Bahmani Sultans.
- After his death, Sangama dynasty became weak.
- The next dynasty, Saluva dynasty founded by Saluva Narasimha reigned only for a brief period (1486-1509).

## **KRISHNA DEVA RAYA (1509 - 1529)**

- The Tuluva dynasty was founded by **Narasa Nayaka (not Vira Narasimha)**.
- Krishna Deva Raya, the greatest of the Vijayanagar rulers, belonged to the Tuluva dynasty.
- He possessed great military ability, imposing personality and high intellectual quality.
- In 1509 Krishnadevaraya's armies clashed with the Sultan of Bijapur at Diwani and the Sultan Mahmud was severely injured and defeated. Yusuf Adil Khan was killed and the Raichur Doab was annexed.
- Taking advantage of the victory and the disunity of the Bahamani Sultans, the Raya invaded Bidar, Gulbarga and Bijapur and earned the title "**establisher of the Yavana kingdom**" when he released Sultan Mahmud and made him de facto ruler. By that time the Bahmani kingdom was replaced by Deccan Sultanates.

### **War with Kalinga (Orissa)**

- Krishna Deva Raya's Orissa campaign was also successful.
- He defeated the Gajapathi ruler Prataparudra and conquered the whole of Telangana.

### **Relations with Europeans**

- He maintained friendly relations with the Portuguese.
- Albuquerque sent his ambassadors to Krishna Deva Raya.

### **Art and culture**

- Though a Vaishnavite, he respected all religions.

- He was a great patron of literature and art and he was known as **Andhra Bhoja**.
- 8 eminent scholars known as **Ashtadiggajas** were at his royal court.
- **Allasani Peddanna** was the greatest and he was called **Andhrakavita Pitamaga**. His important work included **Manucharitam and Harikathasaram**.
- **Pingali Suranna and Tenali Ramakrishna** were other important scholars.
- Krishna Deva Raya himself authored a Telugu work, **Amukthamalyadha** and Sanskrit works, **Jambavati Kalyanam and Ushaparinayam**.
- He repaired most of the temples of south India. He also built the famous Vittalaswamy and Hazara Ramaswamy temples at Vijayanagar.
- He also built a new city called Nagalapuram in memory of his queen Nagaladevi. Besides, he built a large number of Rayagopurams.

### **Loss of Vijaynagar to Bahmani**

- After his death, Achutadeva and Venkata succeeded the throne.
- **Battle of Talaikotta** - During the reign of Rama Raya, the combined forces of Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Golkonda and Bidar defeated him in 1565.
- This battle is also known as **Raksasa Thangadi**.
- Rama Raya was imprisoned and executed.
- The city of Vijayanagar was destroyed.
- This battle was generally considered to mark the end of the Vijayanagar Empire.
- However, the Vijayanagar kingdom existed under the Aravidu dynasty for about

another century. Thirumala, Sri Ranga and Venkata II were the important rulers of this dynasty. The last ruler of Vijayanagar kingdom was Sri Ranga III.

## Administration

- Well organized.
- King –
  - o Enjoyed absolute authority in executive, judicial and legislative matters.
  - o Highest court of appeal.
  - o Assisted by a council of ministers in his day to day administration.
  - o The succession to the throne by principle of hereditary. Sometimes usurpation to the throne took place as Saluva Narasimha came to power by ending the Sangama dynasty.

## Administration units and officials

- The empire was divided into five main **provinces (Rajya)**, each under a commander (Dandanayaka or Dandanatha) and headed by a governor, often from the royal family, who used the native language for administrative purposes.
- A Rajya was divided into regions (Vishaya Vante or **Kottam**) and further divided into counties (Sime or **Nadu**), themselves subdivided into municipalities (Kampana or **Sthala**).
- **Mandaleswara or Nayak** – The governor of Mandalam.
- Hereditary families ruled their respective territories and paid tribute to the empire, while some areas, such as Keladi and Madurai, came under the direct supervision of a commander.
- Vijayanagar rulers gave full powers to the local authorities in the administration.

## Revenue income

- Main source of income – land revenue – generally 1/6 th of produce.
- Other source of income – tributes and gifts from vassals and feudal chiefs, customs collected at the ports, taxes on various professions

## Revenue expenditure

- Personal expenses of king
- Charities given by King
- Military expenditure.

## Justice

- Harsh punishments such as mutilation and throwing to elephants were followed.

## Military

- Well-organized and efficient.
- It consists of the cavalry, infantry, artillery and elephants.
- High-breed horses were procured from foreign traders.
- Nayaks or Poligars - The top-grade officers of the army. They were granted land in lieu of their services. These lands were called amaram.
- Soldiers were usually paid in cash.

## Social Life

- Allasani Peddanna (remember who he was?) wrote in Manucharitam that Vijayanagar society has four castes – Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas and Sudras

## Foreign travellers account on social life

- They left account on the splendour of buildings and luxurious social life in the city of Vijayanagar.
- Silk and cotton clothes were mainly used for dress.
- Perfumes, flowers and ornaments were used by the people.

- **Domingo Paes** mentions - beautiful houses of the rich their household servants.
- **Nicolo Conti** refers to the prevalence of slavery.
- Dancing, music, wrestling, gambling and cock-fighting were some of the amusements.

## Religion

- Sangama rulers were chiefly Saivaites oTheir family deity - Virupaksha
- Other dynasties were Vaishnavites.
- Srivaishnavism of Ramanuja was very popular.
- But all kings were religious tolerant.
- Borbosa referred to the religious freedom enjoyed by everyone.
- Muslims were employed in the administration and they were freely allowed to build mosques and worship.
- The Epics and the Puranas were popular among the masses.

## Women's Position

- Not improved.
- However, some of them were learned.
- **Gangadevi**, wife of Kumarakampana authored the famous work **Maduravijayam**.
- **Hannamma and Thirumalamma** – famous poets of this period.
- According to Nuniz, a large number of women were employed in royal palaces as dancers, domestic servants and palanquin bearers.
- Devadasi - The attachment of dancing girls to temples was in practice.
- Paes gives account of the flourishing devadasi system.
- Polygamy was prevalent among the royal families.
- Sati was honoured and Nuniz gives a description of it.

## Economic Condition

- According to foreign travellers account –
- Vijayanagar Empire was one of the wealthiest parts of the world at that time.
- Chief occupation of people - Agriculture
- The Vijayanagar rulers provided a stimulus to it by providing irrigation facilities by building dams and constructing tanks across the rivers like Tunghabadra.
- Nuniz refers to the excavation of canals.

## Industries

- Industries were organized into guilds.
- **Metal workers** and other craftsmen flourished during this period.
- **Diamond mines** were located in Kurnool and Anantapur district.

## Trade

- A great centre of trade.
- The chief gold coin was the varaha but weights and measures varied from place to place.
- **Inland, coastal and overseas trade** contributed to general prosperity.
- No. of seaports on the both the coasts had resulted in foreign trade with Arabia, Persia, South Africa and Portugal on the west and with Burma, Malay peninsula and China on the east.
- **Export** - Cotton and silk clothes, spices, rice, iron, saltpeter and sugar.
- **Import** - Horses, pearls, copper, coral, mercury, China silk and velvet clothes.
- The art of shipbuilding had developed.

## Languages

- Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada and Tamil flourished.

- There was a great development in Sanskrit and Telugu literature.
- The peak of literary achievement was reached during the reign of Krishna Deva Raya.
  - o He himself was a scholar in Sanskrit and Telugu.
- His famous court poet Allasani Peddanna was distinguished in Telugu literature.

## **BAHMANI KINGDOM**

- Alauddin Bahman Shah also known as Hasan Gangu founded the Bahmani kingdom in 1347.
- Capital - Gulbarga.
- 14 sultans had ruled over this kingdom.
- Among them, Alauddin Bahman Shah, Muhammad Shah I and Firoz Shah were important.
- Ahmad Wali Shah shifted the capital from Gulbarga to Bidar.
- Bahmani kingdom was at its peak under the rule of Muhammad Shah III.
- The success of Muhammad Shah was due to the advice and services of his minister Mahmud Gawan.

## **Extension of Bahmani Kingdom**

- It extended from the Arabian sea to the Bay of Bengal.
- On the west - Goa to Bombay.
- On the east - Kakinada to the mouth of the river Krishna.

## **Mahmud Gawan**

- He was a Persian merchant.
- The Bahmani kingdom reached its peak because of the guidance of Mahmud Gawan.
- At the age of 42, he joined the services of Bahmani kingdom.
- His personal qualities led him to position of chief minister.

## **Qualities of Mahmud Gawan**

- Loyal to the kingdom.
- Lived a simple life and was magnanimous.
- He was also a learned person.
- Possessed great knowledge of mathematics.
- Made endowments to build a college at Bidar which was built in the Persian style of architecture.
- Military qualities -
  - o Military genius.
  - o Waged successful wars against Vijayanagar, Orissa and the sea pirates on the Arabian sea.
  - o His conquests include Konkan, Goa and Krishna-Godavari delta.
  - o Thus he expanded the Bahmani Empire through his conquests.

## **Administrative reforms**

- Aim of administrative reforms - To increase the control of Sultan over the nobles and provinces.
  - o Royal officers were appointed in each province for this purpose.
  - o Most of the forts were under the control of these officers.
- Allowances were reduced to the nobles who shirked their responsibility. This irked the nobles.
- They plotted against him and induced the king to give him death sentence.
- As the virtue flights from state it started to decline.
- Muhammad Shah was succeeded by weak Sultans.
- Nobles took advantage of weak sultans and declared their independence.
- By the year 1526, the Bahmani kingdom had disintegrated into 5 independent sultanates – Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Berar, Golkonda and Bidar
- These 5 states are known as **Deccan Sultanates**.

## FOREIGN TRAVELERS

### **Al- Biruni**

- Born in 973, in Khwarizm in present day Uzbekistan.
- Well versed in several languages: Syria, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew and Sanskrit.
- In 1017, when Sultan Mahmud invaded Khwarizm, he took several scholars and poets back to his capital, Ghazni; Al-Biruni was one of them.
- Al-Biruni spent years in the company of Brahmana priests and scholars, learning Sanskrit, and studying religious and philosophical texts.
- He wrote “The Kitab-ul- Hind”.
  - oIt was written in Arabic
  - oIt is a voluminous text, divided into 80 chapters on subjects such as religion and philosophy, festivals, astronomy, alchemy, manners and customs, social life, weights and measures, iconography, laws and metrology.
- He was critical about the ways in which texts were written, and clearly wanted to improve on them.
- He had to overcome several barriers in understanding Indian culture, texts etc. These were –
  - oLanguage - Sanskrit was so different from Arabic and Persian that it was not easy to transfer ideas from one language to another.
  - oDifference in religious beliefs and practices.
  - oThe self-absorption and consequent insularity of the local population.
- Al-Biruni’s describes the caste system by looking for parallels in other societies.
- He noted that in ancient Persia, 4 social categories were recognized. He wanted to suggest that social divisions were not unique to India.
- Al-Biruni doesn’t like the notion of pollution or untouchability.

- HE remarked that everything which falls into a state of impurity strives and succeeds in regaining its original condition of purity. The sun cleanses the air, and the salt in the sea prevents the water from becoming polluted.
- He also explained the system of Varna
  - oHighest caste was the Brahmana and they were created from the head of Brahman.
  - oNext caste was the Kshatriya created from the shoulders and hands of Brahman.
  - oNext were Vaishya, who were created from the thigh of Brahman.
  - oShudra from Brahman’s feet.
- Caste system in real life was not quite as rigid.

### **Ibn Battuta**

- An early globe-trotter
- Wrote “Rihla” – Ibn Battuta’s book of travels
  - oWritten in Arabic
  - oProvides extremely rich and interesting details about the social and cultural life in the India in the 14 th century.
- He was a Moroccan traveler, born in Tangier.
- He set off for India in 1332-33.
- He had already travelled extensively in Syria, Iraq, Persia, Yemen, Oman and a few trading ports on the coast of East Africa.
- He had heard about Muhammad bin Tughlaq, the Sultan of Delhi and wanted to meet him.
- The Sultan was impressed by his scholarship, and appointed him the qazi or judge of Delhi.
- He had visited to China, Malabar coast, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Sumatara.
- Ibn Battuta was attacked by bands of robbers several times. In fact, he preferred travelling in a caravan along with companions

- On the footsteps of Ibn Battuta, many other travelers also visited India.
  - oAbdur Razzaq Samarqandi, visited south India in the 1440s
  - oMahmud Wali Balkhi, who travelled very widely in the 1620s
  - oShaikh Ali Hazin, who came to north India in the 1740s.
  - oMahmud Balkhi – even became a sort of Sanyasi for some time.
- Ibn Battuta was excited about the unfamiliar things like - the coconut and the paan, which he seen in India.
- He found Indian cities full of exciting opportunities for those who had the necessary drive, resources and skills.
- Bazaars were not only places of economic transactions, but also the hub of social and cultural activities.
- Most bazaars had a mosque and a temple.
- He found Indian agriculture very productive.
- According to him –
  - oThe Indian subcontinent was well integrated with inter-Asian networks of trade and commerce.
  - oIndian textiles, particularly cotton cloth, fine muslins, silks, brocade and satin, were in great demand.
  - oA unique system of communication.
  - oState took special measures to encourage merchants.
  - oEfficiency of the postal system was amazing.

## **François Bernier**

- He arrived in India in about 1500
- François Bernier, a Frenchman, was a doctor, political philosopher and historian.

- He was in India for twelve years, from 1656 to 1668, and was closely associated with the Mughal court, as a physician to Prince Dara Shukoh (eldest son of Shah Jaha).
- He comparing everything about India with west countries and believed India as a degenerated state.
- He was a firm believer in the virtues of private property, and saw crown ownership of land as being harmful for both the state and its people. He thought that in the Mughal Empire the emperor owned all the land and distributed it among his nobles, and that this had disastrous consequences for the economy and society.
- But critical examination shows that one of the Mughal official documents suggest that the state was the sole owner of land.
- While there were some other Europeans travelers as well who travelled to India.
  - oBest known of the Portuguese writers is Duarte Barbosa, who wrote a detailed account of trade and society in south India.
  - oFrench jeweler Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, who travelled to India at least six times
  - oItalian doctor Manucci, never returned to Europe, and settled down in India.

## **Abdur Razzaq**

- Persian Traveler
- He visited south India in the 1440s
- He described people living in Calicut (present-day Kozhikode) in Kerala as people the likes of whom I had never imagined”, describing them as “a strange nation”.

## **MARCO POLO**

- Marco Polo was a Foreign Envoy and Venetian traveller

- In 1294 A.D he visited South India.
- Marco Polo visited Rudramadevi's Kakatiya dynasty.
- He is very popular to travel through number of eastern countries.
- He wrote his experiences in his book 'The Book of Sir Marco Polo'.
- This book explains the economic history of India.

## Political History

### THE MUGHAL EMPIRE

A miniature painting (dated 1702-1712) of Timur, his descendants and the Mughal emperors. Timur is in the center and on his right is his son Miran Shah (the first Mughal emperor Babur's great-great-grandfather) and then Abu Said (Babur's grandfather). To the left of Timur are Sultan Muhammad Mirza (Babur's great-grandfather) and Umar Shaikh (Babur's father). The Mughal emperors Babur, Akbar and Shah Jahan are the third, fourth and fifth individuals on Timur's right and on his left, in the same order, are Humayun, Jahangir and Aurangzeb.

### BABUR (1526 - 1530)

- Founder of the Mughal Empire in India.
- Original name – Zahiruddin Muhammad.
- He was related to Timur from his father's side and to Chengiz Khan through his mother.
- He succeeded his father Umar Shaikh Mirza, who was ruler of Farghana.
- Defeated by his distant relative and lost his kingdom.
- Remain wanderer for some time and later captured Kabul from one of his uncles.

- He launched four expeditions in India between 1519 and 1526.

### Military Conquests

- In 1525 when Babur want to invade India there were 5 prominent Muslim rulers – Sultans of Delhi, Gujarat, Malwa, Bengal and the Deccan – and two prominent Hindu rulers – Rana Sangha of Mewar and the Vijayanagar Empire.
- He started from Kabul to conquer India.
- He occupied Lahore easily by defeating its governor, Daulat Khan Lodi.
- Then he moved to Delhi and on 21ST April 1526 the first Battle of Panipat took place between Babur and Ibrahim Lodi, who was killed in the battle.
- Babur's key to success - his cavalry and artillery (**used gun powder also**) Gun Powder was not used for the first time by Babur- Gunpowder and gunpowder weapons were transmitted to India through the Mongol invasions of India.

The Mongols were defeated by Alauddin Khilji of the Delhi Sultanate, and some of the Mongol soldiers remained in northern India after their conversion to Islam.

It was written in the Tarikh-i Firishta (1606–1607) that the envoy of the Mongol ruler Hulagu Khan was presented with a pyrotechnics display upon his arrival in Delhi in 1258 CE. As a part of an embassy to India by Timurid leader Shah Rukh (1405–1447). Firearms known as top-o-tufak also existed in the Vijayanagara Empire by as early as 1366 CE. From then on the employment of gunpowder warfare in the region was prevalent, with events such as the siege of Belgaum in 1473 CE by the Sultan Muhammad Shah Bahmani.

- He occupied Delhi and sent his son Humayun to seize Agra.
- Babur proclaimed himself as “**Emperor of Hindustan**”.
- Soon he proved that why he deserved to be the Emperor of India.

### **Battle of Khanua**

- Rana Sangha of Mewar, a great Rajput warrior, marched against Babur and in the **Battle of Khanua** (near Agra) held in 1527 Babur won a decisive victory over him. Babur assumed the title Ghazi.
- Ghazi mean a Muslim fighter against non – Musims.

### **Battle of Chanderi and Ghagra**

- In 1528, Babur defeated another Rajput ruler Medini Rai at Chanderi.
  - In the next year, Babur defeated the Afghans in the Battle of Ghagra (not Gogra), the confluence of Ganga and Ghagra in Bihar.
  - By these victories, Babur consolidated his power in India.
  - Babur died at Agra in 1530 at the age of 47.
- oDuring this time Humayu was ill most of time and Babur used to pray that the illness should be transferred to him.

### **Estimate of Babur**

- Great statesman
  - Man of solid achievements.
  - A great scholar in Arabic and Persian languages.
  - Mother tongue – Turki. He wrote his memoirs, Tuzuk-i-Baburi in Turki language.
- oTuzuk-i-Baburi was also known as Baburnama, Book of Babur, and letters of Babur.
- It provides a vivid account of India.
  - He frankly confesses his own failures without suppressing any facts.
  - He was also a nature lover and described the flora and fauna of India.

### **HUMAYUN**

**(1530 – 1540 and 1555–1556)**

- Eldest son of Babur.
  - Humayun means “fortune” but he remained the most unfortunate ruler of the Mughal Empire.
  - Kamran, Askari and Hindal – Step brothers of Humayu.
  - He succeeded to throne which was full of thorns
  - Probably he was the only king to treated his step brothers as real brother and received betrayal in response.
  - Probably only ruler in the history of India whose rule included 2 spells (1530 – 1540 and 1555–1556)
  - Humayun divided the empire among his brothers but this haunted him later on.
- oKamran – was given Kabul and Kandahar.
- oAskari – Rohillakhand
- oHindal – Mewat (today’s Alwar, Mathura and Gurgaon)
- Bahadur Shah of Gujrat was headache for Humayu. When Humayu was fighting with Afghans in east, Bahadur started to march towards Delhi.

- In 1535, Bahadur attacked on Chitor, Rani Karnavati of Chitor sent a rakhi to Humayu and asked for help.
- At that time humayu was on Bengal's Invasion. He assured the Rani for help.
- He left the expedition in midway and reached up to Gwalior but he was late and Bahadur had ransacked Chitor.
- Humayun reached the Chitor and did defeat Bahadur Shah and reinstated Karnavati's son Vikramaditya Singh as the ruler of Mewar after the mass suicide.
- Humayu appointed Askari as governor of Gujrat but soon Bahadur Shah recovered it.
- In the meantime, Sher Khan had become powerful in East.

### **Loss of Empire to Sher Shah**

- In 1539, Humayun marched against Sher Khan in the **Battle of Chausa** but soon have to escape because of Mughal army's defeat.
- Humayun reached Agra and asked cooperation from his brothers but they refused and so Humayu have to fight alone with Sher Khan in the **Battle of Bilgram** in 1540.
- This battle was also known as **Battle of Kanauj**. Humayun was thoroughly defeated by Sher Khan and became an exile for the next 15 years.

### **SUR INTERREGNUM (1540-1555)**

Founder of the Sur dynasty – Sher Shah

### **Sher Shah Sur (1540 - 1545)**

- Original name was Farid.
- Father - Hasan Khan, a jagirdar of Sasaram in Bihar.
- Initially Farid served under the Afghan ruler of Bihar, who gave him title of Sher Khan for his bravery.
- Became ruler of Delhi in 1540 by defeating Humayu in above mentioned battles.

- With extensive wars on Rajput extended his empire.
- Conquests include – Sindh, Punjab, Malwa, Multan and Bundelkhand
- His empire consisted of the whole of North India except Assam, Nepal, Kashmir and

### **Sher Shah's Administration**

- Brilliant administrative system.
- The central government consisted of several departments.

### **Ministers**

The king was assisted by four important ministers:

- Diwan –i- Wizarat – also called as **Wazir** - in charge of Revenue and Finance.
- Diwan-i-Ariz – in charge of Army.
- Diwan-i-Rasalat- Foreign Minister.
- Diwan-i-Insha- Minister for Communications.

### **Administration units and Officials**

- Empire was divided into 47 Sarkars.
- Further these Sarkars were divided into Parganas.

- In Sarkar –
  - oChief Shiqdar was officer of law and order
  - oChief Munsif was judge

- In Pargana –
  - oShiqdar was military officer
  - oAmin was land revenue officer
  - oFotedar was treasurer
  - oKarkuns was accountants

- There were also many administrative units called iqtas.
- In short - Sarkar → Pargana

### **Land Revenue Administration**

- Well organized

- Land survey was carefully done.
- All cultivable lands were classified into three classes – good, middle and bad.
- Peasant used to pay (in cash or crop)– 1/3 of produce
- Sher Shah had introduced some revenue reforms which increased the revenue of the state.
- He introduced new coins –
  - oSilver coins called “Dam” and which remained in circulation till 1835.
  - oGold coins called “Moghur or Mohur”.

## Transport

- Laid 4 important highways.
  - oSonargaon to Sind
  - oAgra to Burhampur
  - oJodhpur to Chittor
  - oLahore to Multan.
- Rest houses - built on the highways for the convenience of the travelers.
- **Police** - efficiently reorganized and crime under control.
- **Military administration** - efficiently reorganized and branding of horses

## Estimate of Sher Shah

- Pious Muslim
- Religious tolerant
  - oHe employed Hindus in important offices.
  - He also patronized the learned men.
- **Malik Muhammad Jayasi** wrote the famous Hindi work **Padmavat** during his reign.
- After Sher Shah’s death in 1545 his successor, Islam Shah Suri, ruled till 1555 when Humayun reconquered India.

## Humayun (1555 - 1556)

- In 1540, married to Hamida Bano Begum Daughter of a Persian Shia Maulvi Mir Baba.

- She gave birth to Akbar in 1542 in Hindu palace of Rana Virsala of Amarkot (not Amorkot) in Sind.
- He sought help from Iran ruler and later defeated his brother Kamran and Askari
- In 1555, Humayun defeated the Afghans and recovered Mughal throne.
- Just after 6 months he died due to his fall from staircase of library called Sher Mandal.
- Not a good General and warrior but was kind and generous.
- He was also learned and a student of mathematics, astronomy and astrology.
- He also loved painting and wrote poetry in Persian language.

## AKBAR (1556-1605)

- Name - Jalal-ud-din Akbar, Jalal-ud-din means glory of faith.
- One of the greatest monarchs of India.
- Succeeded the throne after his father Humayun’s death.
- Afghan’s commander-in-Chief, Hemu, had sieged the Delhi and so Akbar’s position was dangerous.
- In the 2nd Battle of Panipat in 1556, Hemu was almost on the point of victory.
- But an arrow pierced his eye and he became unconscious. His army fled thinking that king had died.
- Bairam Khan acted as Akbar’s regent for first 5 years. He consolidated the Mughal Empire. But after 5 years Akbar removed him and sent him to Mecca because of court intrigues. On the way to Mecca he was killed.
- His military conquests were extensive. His empire was extended from Agra to Gujarat in northern India and then from Agra to Bengal. He strengthened the northwest frontier.

## Relations with Rajputs

- His Rajput policy was notable.

oHe kept a careful balance between defeating but not humiliating.

- Married to Rajput princess, **Jodha**, the daughter of Raja Bharmal
- After this point history of Mughals had taken a turn.
- Rajputs served Mughals for four decades and Mughals had awarded them with military generals position for their services.
- Raja Bhagwan Das and Raja Man Singh were best example of this.

## Mewar

- Ranas of Mewar were hostile towards Mughals and they think that it's better to die instead of accepting Mughal suzerainty.
- **Battle of Haldighati** – Man Singh led Mughal army defeated the Maharana Pratap in 1576.
- After the defeat of Mewar, most of Rajput ruler's accepted Mughal suzerainty.
- This Rajput policy had benefitted both Mughals and Rajput in several ways.
- oThey need not to hostile towards each other.
- oMughals were having bravest warriors.
- oThis had ensured peace in Rajasthan.

## Religious Policy

- He is famous in history because of his religious policy.
- Various factors had shaped his religious policy –
  - oHis early contacts with the sufi saints
  - oTeachings of his tutor Abdul Latif
  - oHis marriage with Rajput women
  - oHis association with intellectual giants like Shaikh Mubarak and his two illustrious sons – Abul Faizi and Abul Fazl
  - oHis ambition to establish an empire in Hindustan.

## Religious tolerance

- In initial life – pious Muslim
- After marrying Jodha he abolished pilgrim tax and Jaziya.
- Even there was temple of Hindu gods in palace so that his Hindu wives can worship.
- In 1575 – constructed Ibadat Khana at Fatehpur Sikri
- He started discussions on religion with the ulema, Brahmanas, Jesuit priests who were Roman Catholics, and Zoroastrians.
- These discussions took place in the ibadat khana. He was interested in the religion and social customs of different people.
- It made him realise that religious scholars who emphasised ritual and dogma were often bigots. Their teachings created divisions and disharmony amongst his subjects.
- This eventually led Akbar to the **idea of sulh-i kul or “universal peace”**.
- This idea of tolerance did not discriminate between people of different religions in his realm. Instead it focused on a system of ethics – honesty, justice, and peace – that was universally applicable.
- Abul Fazl, his friend and autobiographer, helped Akbar in framing a vision of governance around this idea of sulh-i kul.
- This principle of governance was followed by Jahangir and Shah Jahan as well.

## New Religion

- In 1582 introduced new religion called Din Ilahi or Divine Faith. It believes in one God.
- It contained **good points of all religions**.
- Like rationality, no dogma.

- Aimed at bridging the gulf that separated different religions.
- It wasn't adopted by people and fizzled out after Akbar's death.
- Akbar did not compel anyone to his new faith.

## Land Revenue Administration

- Main source of income - tax on the produce of the peasantry.
- Akbar made some experiments in the land revenue administration with the help of Raja Todar Mal (his revenue minister).
- The land revenue system of Akbar was called **Zabti or Bandobast system**.
- After improvement by Todar Mal, it was known as Dahsala System which was completed in 1580.
- Todar Mal, carried out a careful survey of crop yields, prices and areas cultivated for a 10-year period, 1570-1580.
- On the basis of this data, tax was fixed on each crop in cash. Each province was divided into revenue circles with its own schedule of revenue rates for individual crops. This revenue system was known as **zabt**.
- By this system, Todar Mal introduced a uniform system of land measurement.
- Land was also divided into 4 categories –
  - o Polaj - cultivated every year
  - o Parauti - once in 2 years
  - o Chachar - once in 3 or 4 years
  - o Banjar - once in 5 or more years.
- Payment of revenue was made generally in cash but in crops was also allowed.

## JAHANGIR (1605 - 1627)

- Prince Salim succeeded his father Akbar after his death in 1605.
- He adopted title Jahangir (Conqueror of World).

- His reign witnessed series of rebellions. His elder son Khusrau revolted but was defeated and imprisoned.
- One of Khusrau's supporters, Guru Arjun, the fifth Sikh Guru, had been executed in 1606. The Mughal emperor Jahangir looked upon Sikhs as a potential threat.

## Nur Jahan

- Mehrunnisa, married the Emperor Jahangir in 1611 and received the title Nur Jahan (Light of World)
- Father - Itimaduddaula
  - o A respectable person
  - o Chief diwan
- Other members of Nur Jahan's family were also given various posts.
- Shah Jahan married to his cousin (daughter of his mother's brother Asaf Khan)

## Junta and Shah Jahan's Rebel

- It was believed by some historians that Nur Jahan formed a group of "junta" and this led to two factions in the Mughal court.
- Shah Jahan thought that his father is completely under the influence of Nur Jahan and so he rebelled against his father in 1622.
- But actually she was just taking important political decisions when Jahangir was ill.
- Nur Jahan remained extremely loyal and supportive to the monarch.
- The adjoining document is an order (farman) of Nur Jahan. The square seal states, "Command of her most Sublime and Elevated Majesty Nur Jahan Padshah Begum".

- The round seal states, “by the sun of Shah Jahangir she became as brilliant as the moon; may Nur Jahan Padshah be the lady of the age”.
- As a mark of honour, Jahangir struck silver coins bearing his own titles on one side and on the other the inscription “struck in the name of the Queen Begum, Nur Jahan”.
- She was a constant companion of Jahangir and even joined him in his hunting.

### **Rise of Shah Jahan**

- The rise of Shah Jahan was due to his personal ambitions.
- He rose in revolt against his father who ordered him to go to Kandahar. This rebellion distracted the activities of the empire for four years.
- After Jahangir’s death in 1627, Shah Jahan reached Agra with the support of the nobles and the army. Nur Jahan was given a pension and lived a retired life till her death eighteen years later.

### **SHAH JAHAN (1627-1658)**

- Shah Jahan recovered Kandahar and other ancestral lands.
- As said earlier he was very ambitious but this ambition had to pay price by losing lives of soldiers. He realized the futility of his ambition and stopped fighting.

### **Deccan Policy**

- Defeated the forces of Ahmadnagar and annexed it.
- Both Bijapur and Golkonda signed a treaty with the emperor.
- Shah Jahan carved four Mughal provinces in the Deccan – Khandesh, Berar, Telungana and Daulatabad. They were put under the control of his son Aurangzeb.

### **War of Succession**

- The Mughals did not believe in the rule of primogeniture, where the eldest son inherited his father’s estate.
- Instead they followed the Mughal and Timurid custom of coparcenary inheritance, or a division of the inheritance amongst all the sons.
- The last years of Shah Jahan’s reign were clouded by a bitter war of succession among his four sons – Dara Shikoh (crown prince), Shuja (governor of Bengal), Aurangzeb (governor of Deccan) and Murad Baksh (governor of Malwa and Gujarat).
- Towards the end of 1657, Shah Jahan fell ill at Delhi for some time but later recovered. Aurangzeb thought that his elder brother Dara is lying to him while his father had already passed.
- So he made alliance with one of his brothers. Later when he came near to Agra he betrayed his brother.
- Aurangzeb emerged victorious in this struggle. He surrounded Agra and later entered into fort, killed Dara and forced Shah Jahan to surrender.
- Shah Jahan was confined to the female apartments in the Agra fort and strictly put under vigil. But he was not ill-treated.
- Shah Jahan lived for 8 long years lovingly nursed by his daughter Jahanara. He died in 1666 and buried beside his wife’s grave in the Taj Mahal.

### **INDIA UNDER THE MUGHALS**

- Many European travelers came to India and accounted the economic and social life under Mughals.
- They described how wealthy India was but only a part of population like nobles of court were wealthy. They live luxurious life.

- While the peasant and ordinary people were hand to mouth because of excess burden of taxes.

## **Mughal Nobility**

- They were privileged class during Mughal period.
- Like Delhi sultanate here also most were foreigners like Turks and Afghans and they have conflicts.
- Most settled here and made India their permanent home.
- They assimilated themselves into Indian society and culture but kept their personal traits like Rajputs and Marathas remained in noble class.
- Nobles were paid high but their expenses were also high.
- Some expenses like paying soldiers, cavalrymen, maintenance of elephants etc. were part of their duty while other expenses like wearing fine clothes and costly jewellerys, eating imported fruits were their personal expenses which were because they tried to imitate emperor's luxurious style.

## **Rural Masses**

- While the wealthy people wore silk and cotton clothes, the poor people wore the minimum cloths.
- They suffer from insufficient clothing even during the winter.
- Nikitin observed that the people of Deccan were bare-footed. High cost of leather might be the reason that they can't afford Rice, millets and pulses - staple food of the common people.

oFish was popular on the coastal region.  
oWhile ghee and oil were cheaper, salt and sugar were more expensive.

oMilk and milk products were available in plenty, as plenty of cattle were kept by the rural people.

## **Agriculture**

- Agriculture during that period was very prosperous due to plenty of land, natural methods of cultivation and fertile areas.
- Large variety of crops like rice, wheat, gram, barley, pulses were cultivated.
- Commercial crops – Cotton, Sugarcane, Indigo and oil-seeds
- 17<sup>th</sup> century – new crops – tobacco and maize
- 18<sup>th</sup> century – new crops – Potato and red chilies
- No new agriculture technique
- India exported food crops like Rice and sugar because of surplus production.

## **Growth of Trade**

### **Trading communities**

- There was large no. of trading communities with specializations.
- Well organized and highly professional.
- **Seth, Bohra** traders – specialized in long distance trade.
- **Banik** – Local traders (and today known as Baniya in Rajasthan side).
- **Banjaras** – specialized in carrying bulk goods.

oMove to long distances with their goods on the back of oxen.

oBulk goods were also taken through rivers on boats. It wasn't necessary that trading community was belonging to one caste or religion.

## In north India

- Gujarati merchants included – Hindus, Jains and Muslims.
- In Rajasthan – **Oswals, Maheshwaris and Agarwals** came to be called the **Marwaris**.
- **Multanis, Khatris and Afghanis** conducted trade with central Asia.

## In south India

- In south India – the **Chettis** on the Coramandal coast and the **Muslim merchants of Malabar** were the most important trading communities.

## Trade

### Exports from India

Bengal – exported sugar, rice, delicate muslin and silk.

- Coromandal coast – centre of textile production.
- Gujarat – an entry point of foreign goods.

oIndigo and food grains were exported from north India through Gujarat.

oExports of Kashmir shawls and carpets via Gujarat.

### Surat

oA gateway for trade with west Asia

oAn emporium of western trade

oAlso called gate of Mecca because many pilgrim ships sail from here

oIn 17<sup>th</sup> century, factories of major European companies

oTextiles of Surat famous for their gold lace borders.

oHuge banking houses at Surat by Kathiawad seths or Mahajans.

## Imports into India

- Major imports – tin and copper, war horses and luxury items such as ivory.
- The balance of trade was maintained by the import of gold and silver.
- The growth of foreign trade had resulted in the increased import of gold and silver in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- One of the travellers had accounted that gold and silver flow through whole world and lastly came to India.
- The Dutch and English traders who came to Gujarat during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, found that Indian traders were alert and brisk.

## Paintings and Music

### Paintings

- Mughal's contribution to Painting is remarkable.
- Foundation of painting was laid by Humayu, who brought two Persian painters, Mir Sayyid Ali and Abdal Samad, after return from Persia.
- They became famous during Akbar's reign.
- Several literary and religious text's illustrations were painted on orders of Akbar.
- He invited large no. of painters from all over India, which includes Hindus and Muslims.
- Important painters in Akbar's court were Baswan, Miskina and Daswant.
- Mughal painting is a particular style of South Asian painting, which is generally confined to miniatures, and emerged from Persian painting.

- No miniatures survived from reign of Babur. Copies of Baburnama were illustrated by his descendants.

## Miniature painting

- Illustrations of Persian versions of Mahabharat and Ramayana were produced in miniature form.
- Akbar had enlarged his father's painting library.
- Akbarnama, written by Abul Fazal, also remained the main themes of Mughal paintings.
- The most important work is Hamznama, which consisted 1200 paintings.
- Hamzanama – It narrates the legendary exploits of Amir Hamza, an uncle of the Prophet Muhammad, though most of the stories are extremely fanciful, "a continuous series of romantic interludes, threatening events, narrow escapes, and violent acts"
- Indian colours such as peacock blue, Indian red began to be used.

## Mughal paintings under Jahangir

- He employed a number of painters like Abul Hasan, Bishan Das, Madhu, Anant, Manohar, Govardhan and Ustad Mansur.
- Many albums containing paintings and calligraphy were produced during the Mughal period.
- Brushwork became finer and the colours lighter.
- He was deeply influenced by European paintings.

- He encouraged paintings depicting events of his own life, individual portraits, and studies of birds, flowers and animals, scenes of hunting, battles and royal courts

The **Jahangirnama**, written during his lifetime, which is an auto biographical account of Jahangir's reign, has several paintings, including some unusual subjects such as the union of a saint with a tigress, and fights between spiders.

**Mughal paintings under Shah Jahan** Continued to develop, but they gradually became cold and rigid. Themes including musical parties; lovers, ascetics gathered around a fire, abound in the Mughal paintings of this period.

## Mughal paintings under Aurangzeb

Aurangzeb (1658-1707) did not actively encourage Mughal paintings.

## Music

Music had also developed under the Mughals. Akbar **patronized Tansen of Gwalior.**

- Tansen composed many ragas.
- Tansen was prominent Hindustani classical music composer, musician and vocalist.
- He was disciple of Swami Haridas
- Jahangir and Shah Jahan were also fond of music.
- The classical music performed in the Mughal courts survives today in the form known as Dhrupad.
- The Ain-i-Akbari, written by Abul Fazl suggests that there were 36 musicians in the Mughal court of Akbar.

- It mentioned two bin players native to Gwalior, Shihab Khan and Purbin Khan.
- Akbar himself was a learned musician.

## Literature

### **Literature during Akbar**

• Akbar ordered one of his close friends and courtiers, Abul Fazl, to write a history of his reign.

• Abul Fazl wrote a 3 volume history of Akbar's reign titled, **Akbar Nama**.

o1st volume – dealt with Akbar's ancestors

o2nd volume – recorded the events of Akbar's reign.

o3rd volume – is **Ain-i Akbari**. It deals with Akbar's administration, household, army, the revenues and geography of his empire. It also provides rich details about the traditions and culture of the people living in India. The most interesting aspect about the Ain-i Akbari is its rich statistical details about things as diverse as crops, yields, prices, wages and revenues.

• Abul Fazl set a style of prose writing and it was followed by many generations.

The leading poet of that period was his brother **Abul Faizi**.

oThe translation of Mahabharata into the Persian language was done under his supervision.

**Utbi and Naziri** were the two other leading Persian poets.

### **Literature during Jahangir**

Jahangir's autobiography, **Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri**, written by Jahangir was famous for its style.

- He patronized many –
- oScholars – like Ghiyas Beg, Naqib Khan and Niamatullah.

oWriters and historians – like Abdul Hamid Lahori (author of Padshah Nama) and Inayat Khan (author of Shah Jahan Nama).

His son Dara Shikoh translated the Bhagavat Gita and Upanishads into the Persian language.

### **Literature during Aurangzeb**

• Many historical works were written during the reign of Aurangzeb.

• Famous dictionaries of the Persian language were also compiled during the Mughal period.

### **Language**

• Persian language became widespread in the Mughal Empire by the time of Akbar's reign.

• Regional languages such as **Bengali, Oriya, Rajasthani and Gujarathi** had also developed during this period.

• Many devotional works including the Ramayana and Mahabharata were translated into regional languages.

• From the time of Akbar, Hindi poets were attached to the Mughal court. The most influential Hindi poet was **Tulsidas**, who wrote the Hindi version of the **Ramayana**, the **Ramcharitmanas**.

## DELHI SULTANATE ARCHITECTURE

### **ART FORMS**

The art and architecture of the Delhi Sultanate period was distinct from the Indian style.

The Turks introduced

o**Arches**

o**Domes**

o lofty towers or minarets (Qutub Minar is example)

oDecorations using the Arabic script (Bands of inscription in Arabic on Qutub Minar).

- They used the skill of the Indian stone cutters.
- They also added colour to their buildings by using **marbles, red and yellow sand stones**.
- In the beginning, they destroyed temples and constructed Mosques from the remainings of destructed structures. For example, the **Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque** near Qutub Minar in Delhi was built by using the materials obtained from destroying many Hindu and Jain temples.
- But later, they began to construct new structures.
- The buildings of the Tughlaq period were constructed by combining arch and dome. They also used the cheaper and easily available grey colour stones.
- The Kotla fort at Delhi was the creation of Firoz Tughlaq.

### **Qutub Minar Complex**

The most magnificent building of the 13TH century was the Qutub Minar which was founded by Qutbuddin Aybak

oCompleted by Iltutmish

oThis 73 metre tower was dedicated to the **Sufi saint Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki**.

oSmall arches and geometrical designs

oBands of inscription in Arabic

oSurface – curved and angular

oPlacing inscription on curved surface require precision

o**Qutb-Minar** was repaired by Firoz Shah Tughlaq.

**Alai Minar** o After a win from one of his Deccan campaigns, the Sultan dreamt of constructing a huge Tower or Minar to commemorate his victory. He wanted a structure that would double the height of Qutub Minar in order to be remembered as the only Sultan who dared to create such a monumental masterpiece that was grander and more spectacular than the Qutub Minar of Qutb-ud-din Aibak of the Slave dynasty that ruled before him.

oThe construction was completed up till the first storey and at a height of 24.5metres but unfortunately, the construction was abandoned after the death of Sultan Ala-ud-din Khalji in 1316 AD and the subsequent successors could not continue the further construction as they were defeated and the Delhi Sultanate was taken over by the Tughlaq dynasty.

### **Alai Darwaza**

Alauddin Khalji added an entrance to the Qutub Minar called Alai Darwaza. The dome of this arch was built on scientific lines.

### **Tughlaqabad**

The palace complex called Tughlaqabad with its beautiful lake was built during the period of Ghyasuddin Tughlaq.

Muhammad bin Tughlaq built the tomb of Ghyasuddin on a high platform.

### **LODHI ARCHITECTURE**

- **Adhai-Din-Ka-Jhonpra mosque, Ajmer** Mosque in the Ajmer city of Rajasthan.
- It was commissioned by Qutb-ud-Din-Aibak, on orders of Muhammad Ghori, in 1192.

- It was completed in 1199 CE, and further beautified by Iltutmish of Delhi in 1213.
- A mosque is called a masjid in Arabic, literally a place where a Muslim prostrates in reverence to Allah.
- In a “congregational mosque” (masjid-i jami or jama masjid) Muslims read their prayers (namaz) together.
- Members of the congregation choose the most respected, learned male as their leader (imam) for the rituals of prayer. He also delivers the sermon (khutba) during the Friday prayer.
- During prayer, Muslims stand facing Mecca. In India this is to the west. This is called the **qibla**.
- The Delhi Sultans built several mosques in cities all over the subcontinent.
- These demonstrated their claims to be protectors of Islam and Muslims.
- Mosques also helped to create the sense of a community of believers who shared a belief system and a code of conduct. It was necessary to reinforce this idea of a community because Muslims came from a variety of backgrounds.

## **VIJAYNAGAR ARCHITECTURE**

- Temple building activity gained momentum in this period.
- Hampi – located in the Krishna-Tungbhadra basin
- Nucleus of the Vijayanagar empire founded in 1336
- Well-fortified city

- No mortar or cementing agent was used in construction of these walls

## **Chief characteristics of the Vijayanagara architecture –**

- Construction of tall Raya Gopurams or gateways Kalyana mandapam with carved pillars in the temple premises
- Sculptures carvings on the pillars
- Most common animal found on these pillars - Horse.
- Large mandapams contain 100 pillars as well as 1000 pillars in some big temples.
- Use of mandapas - For seating the deity on festival occasions.
- Many Amman shrines were added to the already existing temples during this period.
- Vijayanagar style’s most important temples were found - in Hampi ruins or the city of Vijayanagar.
- Nayak rulers continued construction of Raya Gopuram
- Casting of metal images was also there in Vijayanagar
- Example - Metal images of Krishna Deva Raya and his queens at Tirupati
- Also patronized music and dancing.

## **SHER SHAH ARCHITECTURE**

- He built a new city on the banks of the river Yamuna near Delhi called **Shergarh**.
- Shergarh (now known as Old Fort) became the citadel of this city

- The city which he started (and later completed by his son Islam Shah) had 14.4 Km perimeter and was located between the present Humayun's Tomb and the Shahjahanabad.
- The north gate was called Kabuli Darwaza and another one was called Lal Darwaza. Both these gates still exist. The Khooni Darwaza opposite Feroz Shah Kotla was one of the gates of the city.
- The Khooni Darwaza (Bloody Gate) earned its name after the three princes of the Mughal dynasty - Bahadur Shah Zafar's sons Mirza Mughal and Mirza Khizr Sultan and grandson Mirza Abu Bakht, were shot by a British Soldier, Captain William Hodson on September 22, 1857 during the Indian Rebellion

## MUGHAL ARCHITECTURE

Mughals built many forts, palaces, public buildings, mosques and mausoleums.

### **Mughal Gardens**

- Babur described his interest in planning and laying out formal gardens, placed within rectangular walled enclosures and divided into four quarters by artificial channels.
  - These gardens were called chahar bagh, four gardens, because of their symmetrical division into quarters. Beginning with Akbar, some of the most beautiful chahar baghs were constructed by Jahangir and Shah Jahan in Kashmir, Agra and Delhi.
- Some of the Mughal gardens such as the Nishat Bagh in Kashmir, the Shalimar Bagh at Lahore and the Pinjore garden in the Haryana have survived even today.

### **Forts**

- Large scale construction of buildings started.
- He built most famous Agra Fort.
- It was built in red sandstone.
- His other forts are at Lahore and Allahabad.
- The climax of fort-building reached its climax during the reign of Shah Jahan. The famous Red Fort at Delhi with its Rang Mahal, Diwan-i-Am and Diwan-i-Khas was his creation.
- It was during Shah Jahan's reign that the different elements of Mughal architecture were fused together in a grand harmonious synthesis.
- His reign witnessed a huge amount of construction activity especially in Agra and Delhi.
- The ceremonial halls of public and private audience (diwan-i khas or am) were carefully planned.
- These courts were also described as chihil sutun or forty-pillared halls, placed within a large courtyard.
- Shah Jahan's audience halls were specially constructed to resemble a mosque.
- The pedestal on which his throne was placed was frequently described as the **qibla**, the direction faced by Muslims at prayer, since everybody faced that direction when court was in session.

- The idea of the king as a representative of God on earth was suggested by the architectural features.
- The connection between royal justice and the imperial court was emphasised by ShahJahan in his newly constructed court in the Red Fort at Delhi. Behind the emperor's throne were a series of pietra dura inlays that depicted the legendary Greek god Orpheus playing the lute.
- It was believed that Orpheus's music could calm ferocious beasts until they resided together peaceably. The construction of Shah Jahan's audience hall aimed to communicate that the king's justice would treat the high and the low as equals where all could live together in harmony.

## 1. Buland Darwaza

## 2. Jamat Khana

## 3. Zanana Rauza

## 4. Tomb of Sheik Salim Chisthi

## 5. Jama Masjid Mosque

## 6. Badshahi Darwaja

- Akbar also built a palace cum-fort complex at Fatepur Sikri (City of Victory)
- Many buildings in Gujarati and Bengali styles are found in this complex.
- Gujarati style buildings were probably built for his Rajput wives.
- The most magnificent building in it is the Jama Masjid and the gateway to it called Buland Darwaza or the Lofty Gate.
- The height of the gateway is 176 feet. It was built to commemorate Akbar's victory over Gujrat.

- Other important buildings at Fatepur Sikri are Jodh Bai's palace and Panch Mahal with five storeys.

## Humayun's Tomb

- During Akbar's reign, the Humayun's tomb was built at Delhi and it had a massive dome of marble.
- It may be considered the precursor of the Taj Mahal.
- There were several important architectural innovations during Akbar's reign. For inspiration, Akbar's architects turned to the tombs of his Central Asian ancestor, Timur.
- The central towering dome and the tall gateway (pishtaq) became important aspects of Mughal architecture, first visible in Humayun's tomb.
- It was placed in the centre of a huge formal chahar bagh and built in the tradition known as "eight paradises" or hasht bihisht – a central hall surrounded by eight rooms. The building was constructed with red sandstone, edged with white marble.

## Akbar's Tomb

Akbar's tomb at Sikandara near Agra was completed by Jahangir.

## Itimaddaulah's Tomb

- Nur Jahan built the tomb of Itimaddaulah at Agra. It was constructed wholly of white marble with floral designs made of semi-precious stones on the walls. This type of decoration was called *pietra dura*.

- This method became more popular during the reign of Shah Jahan.
- The **pietra dura** method was used on a large scale in the Taj Mahal by Shah Jahan

### **Taj Mahal**

- Taj Mahal is considered a jewel of the builder's art.
  - It contains all the architectural forms developed by the Mughals.
  - The chief glory of the Taj is the massive dome and the four slender minarets.
  - The decorations are kept to the minimum.
  - Shah Jahan adapted the river-front garden in the layout of the Taj Mahal, the grandest architectural accomplishment of his reign.
  - Here the white marble mausoleum was placed on a terrace by the edge of the river and the garden was to its south.
  - Shah Jahan developed this architectural form as a means to control the access that nobles had to the river. In the new city of Shahjahanabad that he constructed in Delhi, the imperial palace commanded the river-front. Only specially favoured nobles – like his eldest son Dara Shukoh – were given access to the river. All others had to construct their homes in the city away from the River Yamuna.
- The Jama Masjid at Delhi was built in red stone.
  - Built by Shah Jahan in his new capital at Shahjahanabad.
  - The Mughal architectural traditions continued in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Their influence in the provincial kingdoms is clearly visible. Many features of Mughal tradition can be seen in the Golden Temple at Amritsar.

### **Mosque**

- Mosque building had reached its peak during Shah Jahan's reign.
- The Moti Masjid at Agra was built entirely in white marble.