

Medieval INDIA

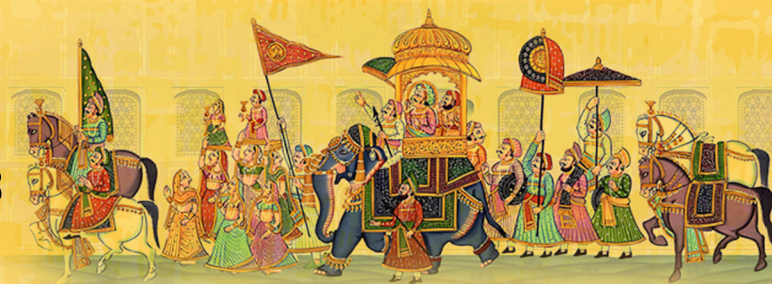


**Previous Year Question Analysis
2021-2023**

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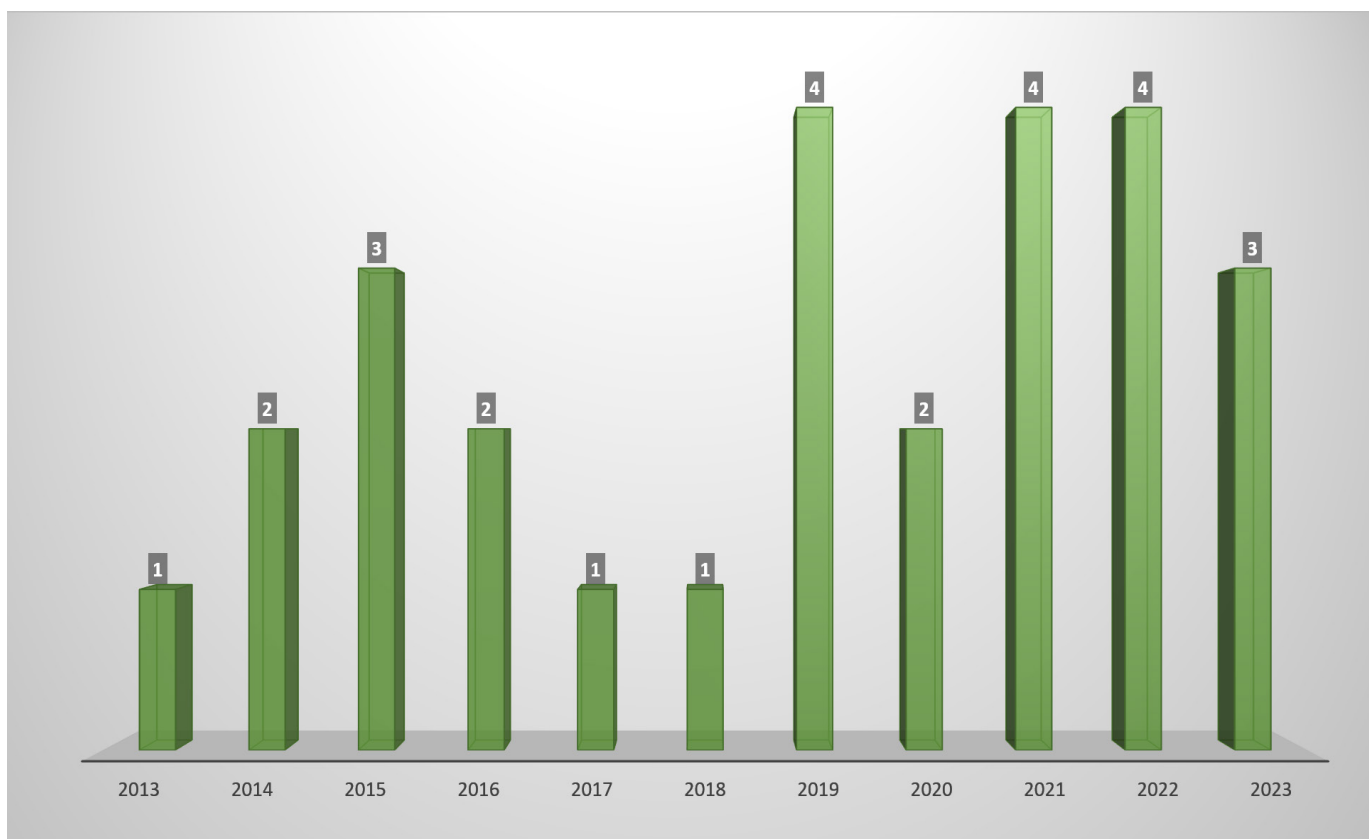
PREFACE

FORTUNE IAS ACADEMY is presenting an in-depth analysis of past year's questions (from 2021 to 2023) and providing comprehensive explanations of the key terms and concepts essential for prelims preparation.

TREND ANALYSIS



The following graph examines the pattern of questions from Medieval Indian History spanning from 2013 to 2023:



Topic wise analysis of previous year questions:

TOPICS/ YEARS	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Delhi Sultanate							1		1	2	
Vijayanagara Kingdom				1							1
Mughal Empire			2				2		1		
Other regional kingdoms					1				1		2
Medieval Architecture						1					
Key terms		2		1				1	1	1	
Religious movements(Bhakti, Sufi)	1						1				
Chronology based questions								1			
Literature										1	
Others			1								

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS



THE QUESTIONS FROM THE PAST THREE YEARS ARE DIVIDED INTO FOUR CATEGORIES:

Factual questions

It demands basic facts from static sources like NCERT, class notes, and other standard materials.

Current affairs questions

Current affairs questions demands general awareness about current events of National and International importance.

Conceptual questions

Such questions require knowledge of fundamental concepts along with conceptual clarity.

Application questions

It demands application of factual and conceptual knowledge to current events.

THE QUESTIONS ARE CLASSIFIED BASED ON ITS DIFFICULTY LEVEL:

EASY

The questions which can be answered from basics (NCERTs, and class notes) and does not need deep knowledge. Such questions are typically cracked by aspirants.

MODERATE

Moderate questions require decent level of conceptual clarity along with cognitive analysis. It can be solved through constant practice and revision.

HARD

Hard questions demand deeper understanding of concepts with critical thinking skills. Most of the aspirants leave such questions due to its increased difficulty.

2021-PRELIMS PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

Type of the questions: Factual

1. Consider the following statements:

- 1) It was during the reign of Ilutmish that Chengiz Khan reached the Indus in pursuit of the fugitive Kwarezm prince.
- 2) It was during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq that Taimur occupied Multan and crossed the Indus.
- 3) It was during the reign of Raya II of Vijayanagara Empire that Vasco da Gama reached the coast of Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Difficulty level: Hard

EXPLANATION

- It was during the reign of Ilutmish that Chengiz Khan reached the Indus in pursuit of the fugitive Kwarezm prince Jalal ad-Din.
- Even though Punjab was a part of his domain, Ilutmish prudently avoided the area when Genghis Khan conquered it in an effort to find Jalal-ad-Din. He forbade Jalal ad-Din from seeking refuge in India.
- Chengiz Khan defeated Jalal ad-Din near the banks of the Indus River.

Invasion of Taimur

- The period of Mahmud bin Tughlaq was 1325 to 1351.
- Timur invaded India in 1398 A.D., during the reign of Nasir-ud-Din Mahmud Shah Tughlaq (and not during the period of Mahmud bin Tughlaq).
- Mahmud Shah Tughlaq was the last sultan of the Tughlaq dynasty.

Arrival of Vasco da Gama in India

- In 1498, Vasco da Gama reached the coast of Kerala (at Kozhikode). He met "Zamorin", the regional king of Calicut.
- This was the first time that a European had arrived in India via the sea route.
- Deva Raya II of the Vijayanagara empire ruled between 1422 and 1446 AD.

2. With reference to medieval India, which one of the following is the correct sequence in ascending order in terms of size?

- a) Paragana-Sarkar-Suba ✓
- b) Sarkar-Paragana-Suba
- c) Subs-Sarkar-Paragana
- d) Paragana-Suba-Sarkar

Difficulty level: Easy

EXPLANATION

- During medieval India, the Mughal empire was divided into various administrative levels.
- Suba was the largest unit, and was equal to a province.
- Subas were subdivided into Sarkars (districts).
- Sarkars were further divided into Parganas (or sub-districts).
- Therefore, the correct sequence in ascending order in terms of size is Paragana-Sarkar-Suba.

RELATED PYQs

Q1. With reference to Mughal India, what is/are the difference/differences between Jagirdar and Zamindar?

1. Jagirdars were holders of land assignments in lieu of judicial and police duties, whereas Zamindars were holders of revenue rights without obligation to perform any duty other than revenue collection.
2. Land assignments to Jagirdars were hereditary and revenue rights of Zamindars were not hereditary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

[2019]

3. With reference to Indian history, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1) The Nizamat of Arcot emerged out of Hyderabad State.
- 2) The Mysore Kingdom emerged out of Vijayanagara Empire.
- 3) Rohilkhand Kingdom was formed out of the territories occupied by Ahmad Shah Durrani.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Difficulty level: Moderate

EXPLANATION

The Nizamat of Arcot

- In the first half of the eighteenth century, **after the weakening of the Mughal empire, the Nizamat of Arcot emerged as an independent state** (in present day Tamil Nadu and Southern Karnataka).
- It was a **protectorate** (a state that is controlled or protected by another) **of the Hyderabad state, but it did not emerge out of it.**

The kingdom of Mysore

- **The Mysore kingdom, which was founded and ruled for most part by the Hindu Wodeyar family, initially served as a vassal state of the Vijayanagara Empire.**
- Under the rulers of the Wodeyar (Vadiyar) dynasty, Mysore emerged as an important state.
- In c.1761 CE, a cavalry commander of migrant origin, **Haider Ali**, assumed effective power in the kingdom, reducing the Vadiyars to figureheads.
- The **Mysore Kingdom** strengthened under the leadership of Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan.

Rohilkhand Kingdom

- The Rohilkhand Kingdom (in present-day Uttar Pradesh) **arose under the declining Mughal empire in 1721.**
- The kingdom was **not formed out of the territories occupied by Ahmad Shah Durrani.**

Ahmad Shah Durrani, also known as Ahmad Shah Abdali, was the founder of the Durrani Empire and is often regarded as the founder of modern Afghanistan.

Type of the questions: Current Affairs

1. With reference to India, the terms 'Halbi, Ho and Kui' pertain to

- a) dance forms of Northwest India
- b) musical instruments
- c) pre-historic cave paintings
- d) tribal languages ✓

Difficulty level: Hard

Relevance: First survey in tribal languages conducted in Maoist-hit areas.

EXPLANATION

- **Halbi, Ho and Kui are tribal languages in India.**

Halbi

- Halbi, also known as Halba or Halvasi, is a language spoken in parts of **central India**, primarily in the state of **Chhattisgarh**.
- It has been classified as **Indo-Aryan**, closely related to Oriya, Hindi, and Marathi, and is often written in the Devanagari script.

Ho

- Ho is a **Munda language** spoken mainly in the Indian states of **Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Assam**, and also in Bangladesh.
- It is closely related to Mundari and Santali.

Kui

- It is spoken in **Eastern India** and **written using Odia script.**

2022-PRELIMS PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

Type of the questions: Factual

1. In medieval India, the term “Fanam” referred to:

- a) Clothing
- b) Coins ✓
- c) Ornaments
- d) Weapons

Difficulty level: Moderate

EXPLANATION

Fanam

- The term “Fanam” in medieval India, referred to **coins** used in South India.
- The Fanam coins were the **regular unit of currency in medieval Travancore** and appear to have been extensively used for trading in the region of South India.
- The words Fanam and Panam literally mean money and are still used as a synonym for wealth in Kerala in the native language of Malayalam.

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Difficulty level: Moderate

EXPLANATION

Mongol invasion of India

- The **first Mongol invasion of India** took place **during the reign of Sultan Shams-ud-din Iltutmish**.
 - Alauddin established a huge permanent, standing army to satisfy his ambition for conquest and to protect the country from Mongol invasion.
 - The Mongols attacked at the worst time possible for **Alauddin Khilji – when he was busy laying siege to Chittor**. This time, the Mongol army of 12,000, under Targhi’s leadership, moved to Delhi in a swift attack; many governors could not send their troops to Delhi in time.
 - Alauddin Khilji was forced to retreat to Siri for about two months. The **Mongols attacked and pillaged not only the surrounding areas but also Delhi itself**. Alauddin Khilji continued to hold the fortress at Siri; Targhi withdrew the siege after a few months and left the area.
 - **Barani**, a contemporary historian at that time, attributed this “marvel” to the prayers of the Sufi mystic Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya.
 - The next major Mongol invasion took place after the Khiljis had been replaced by the Tughlaq dynasty in the Sultanate.
 - **In 1327, the Chagatai Mongols under Tarmashirin**, who had sent envoys to Delhi to negotiate peace the previous year, sacked the frontier towns of Lamghan and Multan and besieged Delhi.
 - The **Tughlaq ruler paid a large ransom to spare his Sultanate** from further ravages. **Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq didn’t lose portions of the north-west of his kingdom to Mongols**.
 - Muhammad bin Tughluq asked the **Ilkhan Abu Sa’id** to form an alliance against Tarmashirin, who had invaded Khorasan, but an attack didn’t materialize.
 - Tarmashirin was a Buddhist who later converted to Islam.
3. With reference to Indian history, who of the following were known as “Kulah-Daran”?
- a) Arab merchants
 - b) Qalandars
 - c) Persian calligraphists
 - d) Sayyids ✓

Difficulty level: Moderate

EXPLANATION

Kulah-Daran

- The term 'Kulah-Daran' literally means **'hat-wearers'** and was used to refer to individuals who wore a particular type of **Persian cap** known as a 'kulah'.
- The **Sayyids were called Kulah-Daran** (or cap-wearers), because they use a distinctive pointed cap 'kulah' which gives them a unique identity.



Sayyid dynasty (c. 1414-1451)

- The Sayyid dynasty was the fourth dynasty of the **Delhi Sultanate** who belonged to the theological class.
- They were **claimed to descend from the Prophet through his daughter Fatima.**
- The first Sayyid ruler of Delhi was **Khizr Khan** (reigned 1414–21).
- They patronised the arts and sciences, and built a number of impressive monuments. For eg: the Khizr Khan Mosque and the Mubarak Shah's Tomb in Delhi.

4. "Yogavasistha" was translated into Persian by Nizamuddin Panipati during the reign of :

- a) Akbar ✓
- b) Humayun
- c) Shahjahan
- d) Aurangazeb

Difficulty level: Hard

EXPLANATION

Yogavasistha

- It is a spiritual text written by **Maharishi Valmiki.**
- The book is generally dated between the **11th and 14th centuries** and is considered one of the longest texts in Sanskrit, holding significant importance in the realm of **Yoga.**

- **Originally composed in Sanskrit**, Yogavasistha has been translated into various Indian languages.
- During the Mughal dynasty, the text underwent multiple translations into Persian under the orders of Akbar, Jahangir, and Dara Shikoh.
- One of these **translations was carried out by Nizam-al-Din Panipati in the late sixteenth century AD, during Akbar's reign.**

RELATED PYQs

Q1. Who among the following Mughal Emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to the album and individual portrait?

- a) Humayun
- b) Akbar
- c) Jahangir
- d) Shah Jahan

[2019]

2023-PRELIMS PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

Type of the questions: Factual

1. Consider the following dynasties :

- 1) Hoysala
- 2) Gahadavala
- 3) Kakatiya
- 4) Yadava

How many of the above dynasties established their kingdoms in early eighth century AD?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None ✓

Difficulty level: Hard

EXPLANATION

Dynasty	Time period	Capital	Important Ruler
Hoysala	10th-14th centuries	Halebidu (initially Belur)	Vishnuvardhana
Gahadavala	11th-12th centuries	Banaras	Chandradeva
Kakatiya	12th-14th centuries	Warangal (Orugallu)	Ganapati Deva, Rani Rudrama Devi
Yadava	12th-14th centuries	Daulatabad (Devagiri)	Simhana

2. Who among the following rulers of Vijayanagara Empire constructed a large dam across Tungabhadra River and a canal-cum-aqueduct several kilometres long from the river to the capital city?

- a) Devaraya I ✓
- b) Mallikarjuna
- c) Vira Vijaya
- d) Virupaksha

Difficulty level: Moderate

EXPLANATION

- Harihara and Bukka founded the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336.
- 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.
- **Deva Raya I** (belongs to Sangama dynasty) is credited with **promoting irrigation works**.
- He constructed a dam across Tungabhadra River.
- Deva Raya I also **constructed a canal-cum-aqueduct** (24 km long) **from the river to the capital city, Hampi**.

Deva Raya I

- He is credited with making Hampi one of the largest cities in the 15th century.
- During his reign, the **Hazara Rama Temple** (an excellent example of Deccan architecture) was built.
- Italian traveller **Nicolo de Conti**, visited Vijayanagara during his reign.
- He was a supporter of **Kannada literature** and architecture.

3. Who among the following rulers of medieval Gujarat surrendered Diu to Portuguese?

- a) Ahmad Shah
- b) Mahmud Begarha
- c) Bahadur Shah ✓
- d) Muhammad Shah

Difficulty level: Moderate

EXPLANATION

- **Bahadur Shah** was the **Sultan of Gujarat** from 1526 to 1535.
- **Diu** was an island located **off the coast of Gujarat** and held importance due to its strategic position.
- The Portuguese, led by **Nuno da Cunha**, were actively seeking to expand their influence along the western coast of India.
- In 1534, the Bahadur Shah signed the **Treaty of Bassein with the Portuguese**. By this, he ceded Diu to the Portuguese, as well as other territories of his empire such as Vasai and the islands that today form Mumbai.
- He was forced to do so after the Portuguese defeated his army in the **Battle of Diu**.
- After the surrender, the Portuguese established their control over Diu and fortified the island, making it a major stronghold in the region.
- Diu was finally **annexed by India in 1961**.

SUMMARY

Analyzing the trends in previous years' UPSC Prelims questions from 2021 to 2023 provides valuable insights into the distribution of questions across syllabus topics, the varying levels of question difficulty, and the extent to which current affairs play a significant role in the examination.

SUBJECT EMPHASIS:

- Delhi sultanate - Slave dynasty, Khilji dynasty, Tughlaq dynasty, Sayyid dynasty, and Lodhi dynasty.
- Mughal empire - rulers and administrative features.
- Vijayanagara empire - important rulers and their contributions.
- Other important regional kingdoms, territory and their features.

CURRENT AFFAIRS FOCUS:

- Greater attention should be directed towards topics that have remained in the news for an extended period and are closely related to both the syllabus and the foundational aspects of medieval history. A special focus should be given to news related to art and culture.

SUMMARY

TREND ANALYSIS:

- Certain topics are gaining relevance due to their current significance, and there is a possibility that these topics might be repeated in the forthcoming exams.
 - » Key terms in Medieval Indian history. eg: Kulyavapa, Kulah-daran etc.
 - » Important rulers in Delhi sultanate, mughal empire, and vijayanagara empire and their administrative reforms.
 - » A basic understanding of the time period of kingdoms. It will help in cracking chronology based questions.

Prelims preparation acts as the initial gateway to our aspirations of a career in civil services. As the saying goes, the first step is often the most challenging. To reach our desired destination, it's crucial to make the right, and most importantly, smart choices. At **Fortune IAS Academy**, we aim to simplify this challenging exam stage through our test series program, leading you along the correct path to achieve your goals.

