

**\* Multiple choice questions.****[15]**

1. Which event marked the beginning of the Delhi Sultanate?

- (A) Defeat of Prithviraj Chauhan (1192)
- (B) First Battle of Panipat (1526)
- (C) Battle of Talikota (1565)
- (D) Formation of the Khalsa (1699)

**Ans.:** (A) Defeat of Prithviraj Chauhan (1192)

2. Who founded the Mughal Empire in India?

- (A) Akbar
- (B) Aurangzeb
- (C) Babar
- (D) Sher Shah Suri

**Ans. :** (B) Aurangzeb

3. What was the main reason for Central Asian invasions of India during the 11th century?

- (A) To spread education
- (B) To build temples
- (C) To gain India's wealth and spread religion
- (D) To promote trade only

**Ans. :** (C) To gain India's wealth and spread religion

4. Which Vijayanagara ruler is known for composing the Telugu epic Amuktamalyada?

- (A) Harihara
- (B) Krishnadevaraya
- (C) Bukka
- (D) Rana Kumbha

**Ans. :** (B) Krishnadevaraya

5. What was the name of Akbar's policy of religious tolerance?

- (A) Jizya
- (B) Sulh-i-kul
- (C) Iqta
- (D) Mansabdari

**Ans. :** (B) Sulh-i-kul

6. Which fort, built by Rana Kumbha, is famous for its 36-km wall?

- (A) Chittorgarh
- (B) Red Fort
- (C) Kumbhalgarh Fort
- (D) Daulatabad

**Ans. :** (C) Kumbhalgarh Fort

7. Who established the Khalsa in 1699 to resist Mughal persecution?

(A) Guru Nanak

(B) Guru Arjan

(C) Guru Tegh Bahadur

(D) Guru Gobind Singh

**Ans. :** (D) Guru Gobind Singh

8. Which battle ended the Vijayanagara Empire's dominance in 1565?

(A) Battle of Haldighati

(B) Battle of Talikota

(C) Battle of Saraighat

(D) Second Battle of Panipat

**Ans. :** (B) Battle of Talikota

9. What system did the Ahoms use to mobilise men for military and labour duties?

(A) Paik system

(B) Iqta system

(C) Mansabdari system

(D) Jizya system

**Ans.:** (A) Paik system

10. What was the primary source of wealth for Delhi sultans and Mughal emperors?

(A) Trade with Europe

(B) Shipbuilding

(C) Temple donations

(D) Plunder and taxes

**Ans. :** (D) Plunder and taxes

11. What was the primary reason for the establishment of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh?

(A) To promote trade

(B) To build temples

(C) To conquer new territories

(D) To defend Sikhism against persecution

**Ans. :** (D) To defend Sikhism against persecution

12. Which ruler introduced the mansabdari system in the Mughal administration?

(A) Babur

(B) Akbar

(C) Aurangzeb

(D) Shah Jahan

**Ans. :** (B) Akbar

13. What was the jizya tax imposed on during the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal periods?

(A) Muslim subjects

(B) Traders

(C) Non-Muslim subjects

(D) Farmers

**Ans. :** (C) Non-Muslim subjects

14. Which battle marked the end of the Vijayanagara Empire?

(A) Battle of Talikota

(B) Battle of Panipat

(C) Battle of Haldighati

(D) Battle of Saraighat

**Ans.:** (A) Battle of Talikota

15. What was the paik system in the Ahom kingdom?

- (A) A tax collection method
- (B) A military and labour service system
- (C) A trade network
- (D) A religious ritual

**Ans. :** (B) A military and labour service system

\* In the question given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and chose the correct option: [5]

16. **Assertion (A):** The Vijayanagara Empire resisted the Delhi Sultanate's expansion for centuries.

**Reason (R):** Its strategic location in Hampi, strong military under rulers like Krishnadevaraya, and cultural unity helped it remain independent.

Codes:

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

**Ans.:** (A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

17. **Assertion (A):** Akbar's reign was more stable than that of the Delhi sultans.

**Reason (R):** Akbar used diplomatic strategies like marriage alliances and sulh-i-kul, while the Delhi sultans relied heavily on military conquests and faced frequent violent successions.

Codes:

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- (D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

**Ans.:** (A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

18. **Assertion (A):** The Ahom kingdom successfully resisted Mughal expansion in the 17th century.

**Reason (R):** The Ahoms used their knowledge of Assam's forests, hills, and rivers, along with the paik system, to defeat the Mughals in battles like Saraighat.

Codes:

- (A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- (B) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- (C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.



(D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

**Ans.:** (A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

19. **Assertion (A):** The iqta system helped the Delhi Sultanate maintain its army.

**Reason (R):** Nobles collected taxes and sent a share to the Sultan's treasury.

Codes:

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(B) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

(C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.

(D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

**Ans.:** (A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

20. **Assertion (A):** Aurangzeb's policies contributed to the decline of the Mughal Empire.

**Reason (R):** His prolonged Deccan campaigns drained the treasury.

Codes:

(A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(B) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

(C) (A) is true, but (R) is false.

(D) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

**Ans.:** (A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

\* **State Whether The Sentences Are True Or False.[1 Marks Each]**

[10]

21. Akbar's sulh-i-kul policy promoted religious tolerance.

**Ans. :** true-Reason: Akbar's sulh-i-kul (peace with all) abolished jizya, encouraged interfaith dialogues, and included Rajputs in his court, fostering unity across religions.

22. The Ahom kingdom used the paik system to maintain a permanent army.

**Ans. :** false-Reason: The paik system required every able-bodied man to provide labor or military service in exchange for land, allowing a flexible force without a permanent army.

23. The Delhi Sultanate was stable with long-reigning sultans.

**Ans. :** false-Reason: The Delhi Sultanate was unstable, with sultans ruling for an average of 9 years due to violent successions, as two-thirds seized power by eliminating predecessors.

24. The Vijayanagara Empire was destroyed after the Battle of Panipat.

**Ans. :** false-Reason: The Vijayanagara Empire was sacked after the Battle of Talikota in 1565 by Deccan Sultanates, not Panipat, which was linked to the Mughal Empire's



rise.

25. Aurangzeb's reign saw the Mughal Empire's greatest territorial expansion.

**Ans. :** true-Reason: Aurangzeb expanded the Mughal Empire to its largest extent, conquering parts of the Deccan, though his campaigns strained resources, leading to decline.

26. The Delhi Sultanate was ruled by five successive dynasties of Turkic-Afghan origin.

**Ans. :** true

27. Akbar abolished the jizya tax and promoted religious tolerance.

**Ans. :** true

28. The Vijayanagara Empire was founded by Krishnadevaraya.

**Ans. :** false

29. The hundi system was a precursor to modern banking.

**Ans. :** true

30. Rani Durgavati fought against the British Empire.

**Ans. :** false

**\* Fill In The Blanks With Correct Alternative.[1 Marks Each]**

**[15]**

31. The Delhi Sultanate was formed after the defeat of \_\_\_\_\_ in 1192. (Prithviraj Chauhan, Ahom)

**Ans. :** Prithviraj Chauhan

32. The Mughal Empire was established by \_\_\_\_\_ after the First Battle of Panipat in 1526. (Babur, Iqta)

**Ans. :** Babur

33. The Vijayanagara Empire's capital was located at \_\_\_\_\_ known for its grand temples. (Hampi, Ahom)

**Ans. :** Hampi

34. \_\_\_\_\_ a tax on non-Muslims, was abolished by Akbar but reimposed by Aurangzeb. (Suiya, Jizya)

**Ans. :** Jizya

35. The \_\_\_\_\_ system assigned nobles to collect taxes for the Delhi Sultanate's army. (Iqta, Musunuri Nayakas)

**Ans. :** Iqta

36. Akbar's finance minister, \_\_\_\_\_ introduced an efficient land revenue system. (Prithviraj Chauhan, Todar Mai)

**Ans. :** Todar Mai

37. The \_\_\_\_ kingdom in Assam used rivers and forests to defeat Mughals at Saraighat in 1671. (Ahom, Hampi)

**Ans. :** Ahom

38. \_\_\_\_ a Telugu chieftain, led a confederacy to expel the Delhi Sultanate from Warangal. (Tegh Bahadur, Musunuri Nayakas)

**Ans. :** Musunuri Nayakas

39. The \_\_\_\_ temple at Konark was built by Narasimhadeva I to celebrate victories. (Suiya, Todar Mai)

**Ans. :** Suiya

40. Guru \_\_\_\_ was beheaded by Aurangzeb in 1675 at Chandni Chowk. (Tegh Bahadur, Musunuri Nayakas)

**Ans. :** Tegh Bahadur

41. The \_\_\_\_ Empire was established by Harihara and Bukka after rejecting Delhi's authority.

**Ans. :** self

42. Aurangzeb was the Mughal emperor who reimposed the \_\_\_\_ tax on non-Muslims.

**Ans. :** self

43. The \_\_\_\_ system enabled merchants to transfer funds without carrying currency.

**Ans. :** self

44. The Battle of \_\_\_\_ was fought between the Ahoms and the Mughals in 1671.

**Ans. :** self

45. Guru Tegh Bahadur was executed by \_\_\_\_ for refusing to convert to Islam.

**Ans. :** self

**\* Answer The Following Questions In One Sentence.[1 Marks Each]**

**[10]**

46. Who founded the Mughal Empire in 1526?

**Ans. :** Babur founded the Mughal Empire in 1526.

47. What was the name of the tax imposed on non-Muslims by some sultans?

**Ans. :** Jizya

48. Which Vijayanagara ruler composed the Telugu epic Amuktamalyada?

**Ans. :** Krishnadevaraya composed the Telugu epic Amuktamalyada.

49. Name the fort built by Rana Kumbha with a 36-km wall.

**Ans. :** Kumbhalgarh was built by Rana Kumbha with a 36-km wall.

50. Who established the Khalsa in 1699?

**Ans. :** Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa in 1699.

51. Name the five dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate.

**Ans. :** self

52. What was the significance of the Battle of Panipat in 1526?

**Ans. :** self

53. Who built the Kumbhalgarh Fort?

**Ans. :** self

54. What does sulh-i-kul mean?

**Ans. :** self

55. Name the Sikh Guru who compiled the Guru Granth Sahib.

**Ans. :** self

**\* VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**[36]**

56. Looking at Fig. why do you think Ala-ud-din Khilji called himself 'the second Alexander'?



**Ans. :** Ala-ud-din Khilji called himself 'the second Alexander' on his coin to show his ambition and military strength. He wanted to compare his conquests across north and central India and his defence against his Mongol invasions to Alexander the Great's achievements in building a vast empire.

57. In Fig. below, what elements do you observe? What do they tell you about life then? (Hint: observe the weapons, the animals, the activities.)



**Ans. :** In above figure from the Vitthala temple shows warriors swords, spears, and shields, along with horses, and battle scenes. These elements show a society that valued warfare, where animals played an integral role in fighting and transport, reflecting a vibrant, conflict- driven culture.

58. How did the Ahoms use the rivers, hills, and forests of Assam to their advantage? Can you think of ways in which the geography helped them build defences and fight wars?

**Ans. :** The Ahoms used Assam's dense forests, hills, and rivers (Brahmaputra) for guerrilla tactics and ambushes, especially in the battle of Saraighat in 1671. The geography provided natural barriers and hiding spots for troops, while river routes helped in defences. This made it difficult for enemies to navigate, launch attacks, and maintain their supply lines.

59. Why do we use the term 'image' rather than common terms like 'idol' or 'icon'? The latter two terms are considered pejorative in the context of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, whose orthodox sects condemn 'idolatry' or the worship of 'idols' or 'icons'.

India's classical texts used words like murti, vigraha, pratima, rupa, etc., to designate images, often statues, used for worship in temples or homes. In English, 'image' is a neutral term.

**Ans. :** The term 'image' is used because 'idol' and 'icon' have negative meanings in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, which condemn idolatry. Indian classical texts use neutral words like murti or pratima for statues used in worship, so 'image' is a neutral term that avoid connotations and respects the cultural context.

60. During the time of the Tughlaqs, the Musunuri Nayakas, Telugu chieftains, rallied over 75 more chieftains of the region, formed a confederacy that defeated smaller provinces, formed a confederacy that defeated the Delhi Sultanate forces, and expelled Muhammad bin Tughlaq's army from Warangal (present-day Telangana) around 1330-1336. Do you think it would have been an easy task to bring together 75 leaders in those days?

**Ans. :** Bringing together as many as 75 chieftains in the 14th century would have a difficult task due to regional rivalries, poor communication, and different political interests. Munsuri Nayakas managed to do so, shows strong leadership, common goals against the Delhi Sultanate, and the ability to form strategic alliances.

61. Why do you think Guru Tegh Bahadur endured torture rather than convert? Why did he think his sacrifice would make a difference?

**Ans. :** Guru Tegh Bahadur endured torture to uphold religious freedom and protect Kashmiri Pandits, believing his martyrdom would inspire resistance against Mughal oppression.

62. What values did the Sikh Gurus and the Khalsa embody?

**Ans. :** The Sikh Gurus and the Khalsa embodied values of courage, justice, equality, and selfless service. They stood for defending religious freedom, fighting oppression, and protecting the weak, while promoting unity and moral strength among their followers.

63. How are they relevant in today's world?

**Ans. :** These values are important today because they teach us to treat everyone fairly, respect differences, and help others, which helps build a better and peaceful world.

64. What was the iqta system used by the Delhi Sultanate?

**Ans. :** The iqta system was a way to manage the Delhi Sultanate's lands. Nobles, called iqtdars, were given territories to collect taxes, which funded the army. These positions were not hereditary, which ensured loyalty to the sultan but sometimes led to corruption.

65. How did the Ahom kingdom use the paik system to resist Mughal invasions?

**Ans. :** The Ahoms' paik system required every able-bodied man to provide labor or military service in exchange for land. This created a flexible army without permanent costs, helping them use Assam's terrain for guerrilla tactics, like in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671.

66. Why did Akbar abolish the jizya tax?

**Ans. :** Akbar abolished jizya to promote religious tolerance through his sulh-i-kul policy. He wanted to unite his diverse empire by treating Hindus, Muslims, and others equally, reducing conflicts and gaining support from Rajput leaders.

67. What role did trade play in India's economy during this period?

**Ans. :** Trade was vital, with ports like Surat and Calicut exporting textiles, spices, and jewellery to Persia and Europe. The hundi system enabled safe money transfers, and merchants like Marwaris thrived, making India wealthy despite political instability.

68. Who was Rani Durgavati, and how did she resist the Mughals?

**Ans. :** Rani Durgavati was the Gond queen of Garha, kingdom in Central India, who ruled wisely with an army of 20,000 soldiers. In 1564, she bravely fought against Akbar's general, despite being outnumbered. After being wounded, she took her own life to avoid capture, becoming a symbol of resistance and regional pride.

69. How did the mansabdari system strengthen the Mughal administration?

**Ans. :** self

70. Describe the economic role of temples in medieval India.

**Ans. :** self

71. Why did Muhammad bin Tughlaq's token currency fail?

**Ans. :** self

72. Explain the significance of the Battle of Saraighat.

**Ans. :** self

73. How did Akbar's policies differ from Aurangzeb's?

Ans. : self

\* Answer The Following Questions In Short.[3 Marks Each]

[27]

74. Why do you think such locations were chosen for many of the medieval forts? Discuss pros and cons. (Hint: think of issues of strategy, security, vulnerability, etc.)

**Ans. :** Medieval forts like Kumbhalgarh were built in strategic locations such as the Aravalli hills for several reasons.

The elevated terrain offered natural defence, better visibility for surveillance, and made it difficult for enemies to access. Surrounding forests provided resources. However, the isolation made it hard to get quick reinforcements, and the steep terrain complicated supply lines and construction.

75. In his last letters to two of his sons, Aurangzeb wrote, "I came alone and am going away alone. I know not who I am and what I have been doing. ... I have not done well for the country and the people, and of the future there is no hope. I was helpless [in life] and I am departing helpless." What do these words tell us about Aurangzeb? How do you feel about them?

**Ans. :** Aurangzeb's- letters reveal regret as he imprisoned his father, killed his brothers for the throne and killed several thousands of people during his brutal rule. During his last years, all wrong doings done by him including mass destruction of schools, temples, cities and loots must have reflected to him, that's why he mentioned that he had NOT done well for the country and the people. Besides his regret, letters also reflects his loneliness during his last days of life and negative impact on. society at that time due to his atrocious rule and policies.

76. Discuss in class how the paik system affected the daily lives of the people in the Ahom kingdom, both in terms of challenges and benefits, and helped the king manage both the army and the economy.

**Ans. :** The paik system gave every able-bodied man land rights in return for labour or military service. This helped provide economic stability and ensured the king had a ready workforce and army without the need for permanent soldiers, saving costs. However, the mandatory service also disrupted daily life and put pressure on families due to the demands of labour. Overall, the system allowed the Ahom rulers to build important infrastructure like roads and canals and maintain strong defence forces, such as in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671, which made the kingdom's economy and military more efficient.

77. Have you noticed the term pati in titles like 'Gajapati'? Pati means 'lord' or 'master' and was commonly used by many ruling dynasties of this period to signify power and stature. The Vijayanagara kings were called 'Narapati.', the Bahmani Sultanate rulers 'Ashwapati', and the Maratha rulers 'Chhatrapati' -



each title reflecting different aspects of kingship and power. Can you guess what these three terms might mean?

**Ans. :** The use of the term pati in royal titles reflected different aspects of kingship and power. Narapati, used by the Vijayanagara rulers, meant “lord of men” and emphasised their rule over people. The Bahmani Sultanate rulers were called Ashwapati, or “lord of horses,” which highlighted the strength of their cavalry. The Maratha rulers used the title Chhatrapati, meaning “supreme sovereign,” to signify their paramount authority.

78. What strikes you in Babur’s impressions of India? Discuss in groups.

**Ans. :** Babur’s impressions of India show that he felt out of place in a new land. He missed the cooler climate and culture of Central Asia but was struck by India’s rich resources including masses of gold and silver, busy markets, and skilled craftspeople. Although he criticised some things, like the unfamiliar food and lifestyle, he also noticed the land’s beauty and wealth. His views reflect both his homesickness and his eye for India’s strengths.

79. Why do you think Akbar employed different strategies to expand his empire, while the earlier rulers of Delhi relied mostly on military might?

**Ans. :** Akbar employed different strategies like diplomacy, marriage alliances, and sulh-i-kul (religious tolerance) because he understood that ruling a diverse empire needed more than just force. Earlier Delhi sultans mostly depended on military power, which led to instability and rebellion. Akbar learned from this and chose methods that won the loyalty of groups like the Rajputs, making his empire more stable and united.

80. We saw above that Delhi sultans’ average reign lasted about nine years. This figure becomes 27 years in the case of Mughal emperors up to Aurangzeb; and 16 years if we consider all Mughal rulers, up to the end of the empire in the 19th century. What do you make of these numbers of years of reign?

**Ans. :** The Delhi sultans’ average reign of 9 years reflects the political instability and frequent violent successions during their time. In contrast, the Mughal emperors ruled longer 27 years on average up to Aurangzeb, which shows they had better administration, planning and alliances. But when later Mughal rulers are included, the average falls to 16 years, showing the empire became weaker and less stable over time.

81. Analyse the factors that contributed to the decline of the Delhi Sultanate. Discuss political, economic, and military aspects.

**Ans. :** self

82. Compare the resistance strategies of the Ahoms and the Rajputs against the Mughals. How did geography influence their methods?

Ans. : self

\* Picture Based Question.

[3]

83. Study the given figure, depicting the First Battle of Panipat. Describe three elements you observe in the image and explain how they reflect the military advancements of the time.



**Ans. :** In the image of the First Battle of Panipat, three key elements stand out. First, there are large cannons and artillery pieces visible in the foreground, reflecting the introduction of gunpowder weapons, which played a crucial role in Babur's victory. The battle was won largely because of matchlock guns, an early type of firearm used by Babur's army.

Second, the soldiers are shown riding armoured elephants and horses, showing how these animals were used for protection and mobility in battle, which was a traditional but strategic advantage. Third, the soldiers are equipped with swords, shields, and bows, showing a mix of traditional weapons alongside new firearms, indicating a transitional phase in military technology. Together, these elements highlight the combination of old and new tactics that shaped warfare during Babur's invasion of India.

\* Answer The Following Questions In Brief.[5 Marks Each]

[100]

84. How did foreign invasions and the rise of new dynasties reshape India's political boundaries during this period?

**Ans. :** Foreign invasions and the rise of new dynasties reshaped India's political boundaries during the medieval period (11th to 17th century A.D.). Turkic-Afghan invasions from the 11th century led to the Delhi Sultanate in 1192, fragmenting northwestern kingdoms. Babur's victory at Panipat in 1526 established the Mughal Empire, which unified much of India. New dynasties like Vijayanagara in the 14th century and the Bahmani Sultanate emerged in the southern part of India, resisting Delhi's control. Regional powers such as the Ahoms in the north east of India and Rajputs (mostly in current state of Rajasthan) maintained autonomy, creating a fragmented political map. Timur's invasion in 1398 weakened the Sultanate, while Mughal expansion under Akbar and Aurangzeb reached its peak but faced rebellions, resulting in fluid and contested boundaries.

85. How did Indian society respond to invasions? How did India's economy adapt during times of political instability?

**Ans. :** Indian society showed strong resistance to invasions. The Vijayanagara Empire, the Ahoms in the Battle of Saraighat in 1671, and the Rajputs in the Battle of Haldighati in 1576 all stood firm and preserved their regional identities. The Sikh Khalsa, formed in 1699, also defied Mughal power. Communities rebuilt temples and brought different cultures together. India's economy adjusted during political troubles. Despite of political instability, Indian economy continued to prosper due to many factors. Agriculture stayed strong through good irrigation systems. Trade moved well through ports like Calicut and Surat, helped by the hundi system for safe money transfer. Temples ran local economies. Artisans made textiles and weapons. Though heavy taxes hurt peasants, the spread-out systems of rule helped keep the economy stable.

86. What impact did this period have on the lives of the people?

**Ans. :** This period brought both hardship and growth to the lives of the people. Heavy taxes, sometimes reaching up to half the produce, along with repeated plunder, left peasants poor and caused famines in many areas. At the same time, trade and crafts continued to do well, though the profits mostly reached the wealthy classes. Culturally, the era saw great achievement. The temples of Vijayanagara, Mughal buildings like the Taj Mahal, and Sikh religious texts added richness to Indian heritage, even as iconoclasm and jizya brought pain to many. Figures like Rani Durgavati, Maharana Pratap, and Guru Tegh Bahadur stood as symbols of resistance and courage. Villages held on to their local rule, and strong community bonds helped people adapt to changing and often unstable times.

87. Compare the political strategies of the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughals. What similarities and differences existed between them?

**Ans. :** Both the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal Empire used military power to expand their rule. They fought battles, raided cities, and collected taxes like jizya and land revenue to support their armies. However, their methods of governing were

quite different. The Delhi Sultans mostly relied on force and used the iqta system, where land was given to nobles in return for military service. This often caused instability, with frequent power struggles and short reigns on average, only around nine years per sultan.

The Mughals, especially under Emperor Akbar, followed a more stable and thoughtful approach. They used diplomacy, made marriage alliances, and promoted religious tolerance through the idea of sulh-i-kul (peace with all). Akbar also introduced the mansabdari system to manage his officials and army better. This led to longer and more peaceful reigns — Mughal emperors ruled for about 27 years on average until Aurangzeb. So, while both relied on war and taxes, the Mughals had a more organised and lasting way of ruling the empire.

88. Why did kingdoms like the Vijayanagara Empire and the Ahom Kingdom manage to resist conquest for a longer time compared to others? What geographical, military, and social factors contributed to their success?

**Ans. :** Kingdoms like the Vijayanagara Empire and the Ahom Kingdom were able to resist conquest for a longer time due to a mix of geographical advantages, strong military tactics, and social unity. The Vijayanagara Empire benefited from the natural protection of Hampi's rocky and hilly terrain, which made it hard for enemies to attack. Under rulers like Krishnadevaraya, they built a strong army and maintained unity through support for religion and culture, especially by building temples and encouraging literature.

On the other hand, the Ahom Kingdom in Assam used its dense forests, rivers, and hills to its advantage. They relied on guerrilla tactics and deep knowledge of the land to defeat larger invading forces, as seen in the famous Battle of Saraighat in 1671. Their paik system also helped build a flexible army by requiring every man to serve when needed. Both kingdoms had strong local support, which gave them social strength and stability. So, their geography, clever military planning, and strong community bonds helped them stay independent for longer than many others.

89. Imagine you are a scholar in the court of Akbar or Krishnadevaraya. Write a letter to a friend describing the politics, trade, culture, and society you are witnessing.

**Ans. :** Dear Friend, I hope you are well. I want to share with you about life here in Vijayanagara under our great king, Krishnadevaraya. The empire is very strong and powerful, ruling much of the Deccan. The king is not only a brave leader but also a supporter of arts and learning. He encourages poets and scholars, and he even wrote a famous poem himself. Our city is full of beautiful temples, palaces, gardens, and busy markets. It is said to be as large and lovely as Rome. Many traders come from different places to buy and sell goods here.

Life in the city is full of energy and wealth. But after Krishnadevaraya passed away in 1529, things have become difficult. In 1565, a group of enemies fought against us and defeated our army in the Battle of Talikota. They destroyed many parts of our



city, including temples and homes, and this has made life hard for many people. Now the empire is breaking into smaller parts, ruled by local leaders called Nayakas. Still, the memoir of Krishnadevaraya's rule and the glory of Vijayanagara remain strong in our hearts.

Yours sincerely,  
(Scholar's name)

90. How come Akbar, a ruthless conqueror in his young days, grew tolerant and benevolent after some years? What could have led to such a change?

**Ans. :** When Akbar became emperor at the young age of 13, he was a fierce and ruthless leader focused on conquest and military power. Early in his reign, he showed great brutality, such as during the long siege of Chittor where many lives were lost and the survivors faced harsh treatment. However, over time, Akbar's attitude began to change. Through his interactions with people of different faiths, his marriage alliances with Rajput princesses, and the influence of scholars in his court, he gradually adopted a more tolerant and inclusive approach.

He abolished the jizya tax on non-Muslims and promoted the policy of sulh-i-kul, meaning 'peace with all,' which encouraged religious tolerance and harmony. Akbar realised that ruling through respect and cooperation brought greater stability and unity to his vast empire than ruling through fear alone. This change was also influenced by his personal reflections, as recorded by his court historian Abul Fazl, where Akbar admitted that forcing others to convert to Islam religion was wrong and unlikely to last. Thus, Akbar evolved from a harsh conqueror into a wise and benevolent ruler who valued peace and diversity.

91. What might have happened if the Vijayanagara Empire had won the Battle of Talikota? Imagine and describe how it could have changed the political and cultural history of south India.

**Ans. :** If the Vijayanagara Empire had won the Battle of Talikota in 1565, the history of South India could have been very different. The empire would have stayed strong and united, likely continuing to grow its power over the Deccan and beyond. This victory might have stopped the empire from breaking into smaller Nayaka states, helping Vijayanagara remain a powerful kingdom for much longer. Politically, a strong Vijayanagara could have stood firm against invasions from the Deccan Sultanates and even challenged northern powers like the Mughals, possibly changing the balance of power in India.

Culturally, the golden age under Krishnadevaraya might have lasted longer, bringing even greater growth in art, literature, and temple building. Poets, scholars, and religious centres would have continued to receive support, helping to keep cultural unity strong across the region. Temples and cities like Vijayanagara could have grown larger and more beautiful, attracting traders, artists, and pilgrims from far



and wide. Overall, a Vijayanagara victory at Talikota might have turned South India into a leading political and cultural force for many centuries.

92. Many values promoted by early Sikh-ism, including equality, seva, and justice, remain relevant today. Select one of these values and discuss how it remains relevant in contemporary society.

**Ans. :** Equality, as promoted by early Sikhism, is a value that remains strongly relevant in today's world. Guru Nanak's teachings about the oneness of God (Ik Onkar) and the equal worth of all people challenged the deep social divisions of his time, such as caste and religious discrimination. Later Sikh Gurus continued this belief, not only through their words but also their actions — for example, Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed his life defending the rights of Kashmiri Pandits to practise their faith freely. This shows that Sikhism stood firmly for the dignity and equality of all, regardless of religion or background.

In today's diverse and often divided societies, the values of equality, seva and justice help promote mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. It encourages us to treat everyone fairly, support those who face injustice, and build communities based on shared humanity. Whether in schools, workplaces, or daily life, the Sikh belief in equality reminds us to stand up for others and live with compassion and integrity.

93. Imagine you are a trader in a port city (Surat, Calicut or Hooghly). Describe the scenes you see as regards goods, people you trade with, movement of ships, etc.

**Ans. :** As a trader in the thriving port city of Surat, I witness scenes of great energy and wealth each day. Ships arrive from far-off places like Persia, Arabia, and Central Asia, bringing goods such as silk, horses, and metals. In return, we export Indian cotton textiles, spices, jewellery, and crafted items made by local artisans. The port is filled with busy labourers unloading cargo, while markets nearby bustle with merchants and buyers.

Trade is made smoother by the hundi system, allowing money to be transferred safely without carrying coins across borders. Many foreign merchants have even settled here, adding to the diversity and liveliness of the city. The temples around not only serve religious purposes but also support trade by offering credit and building public facilities. Despite political changes in the region, the economy of Surat remains vibrant and full of opportunity.

94. What kind of resources do you think were needed to maintain an army and wage war in those days? Discuss in groups the various types of expenditure involved, from weapons or food for soldiers to animals used in warfare, road construction, etc.

**Ans. :** Maintaining an army in those days required a wide range of resources. Weapons such as swords, bows, and later gunpowder artillery were essential for combat. Soldiers' and animals needed a steady supply of food, including grain and other provisions. Animals like horses, elephants, and camels were important for



both transport and fighting. Good infrastructure, including roads and bridges, was necessary to allow armies to move quickly and efficiently. Financing the army came from taxes imposed on common people and plunder from military campaigns, which paid for soldiers' salaries, equipment, and fortifications. In addition, skilled artisans were needed to produce weapons, and labourers supported logistics and construction work.

95. Explain how the Vijayanagara Empire became a major power in South India and describe its cultural contributions.

**Ans. :** The Vijayanagara Empire, founded by Harihara and Bukka in the 14th century, became a major power by resisting the Delhi Sultanate. Its capital, Hampi, had natural defenses like hills, and rulers such as Krishnadevaraya in the 16th century won battles that expanded control over the Deccan. The empire was a trade hub, attracting Portuguese merchants who supplied horses, as noted by traveller Domingo Paes. Culturally, it supported Telugu, Kannada, and Sanskrit literature; Krishnadevaraya wrote Amuktamalyada. Grand temples like Vitthala, with musical pillars, showcased intricate architecture, making Vijayanagara a centre of cultural and artistic growth until its defeat at Talikota in 1565.

96. What does Baburnama reveal about Babur's personality and his view of India?

**Ans. :** Baburnama reveals that Babur was a cultured and curious individual who admired architecture, poetry, animals, especially birds, and plants like fruit trees. However, he was also a ruthless conqueror who destroyed cities, enslaved women and children, and took pride in building 'towers of skulls' from those he had defeated. Babur felt nostalgic for Central Asia and described India as a 'country of few charms.' Despite this, he acknowledged India's great wealth in gold and silver, its healthy climate during the rainy season, and the abundance of skilled artisAnswer: These practical benefits influenced his decision to remain in India and establish his empire rather than return to Central Asia.

97. How did the Sikh community respond to Mughal persecution, and what values did they promote?

**Ans. :** Facing Mughal persecution, the Sikh community turned martial under Guru Hargobind after Guru Arjan's execution by Jahangir. Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom in 1675, defending Kashmiri Pandits, led Guru Gobind Singh to form the Khalsa in 1699, a group committed to justice and equality, which fought Mughals. The Sikh sacred text, Guru Granth Sahib, compiled by Guru Arjan and later enriched, promoted values like equality (all are equal before God), seva (selfless service), compassion, and truthfulness. These teachings gave Sikhs the moral strength to stand up against injustice and continue to guide people towards unity and kindness today.

98. Analyse the factors that contributed to the decline of the Delhi Sultanate. Discuss



political, economic, and military aspects.

**Ans. :** self

99. Compare the resistance strategies of the Ahoms and the Rajputs against the Mughals. How did geography influence their methods?

**Ans. :** self

100. You are a historian studying the resistance of regional kingdoms against the Delhi Sultanate. Analyse why the Eastern Ganga kingdom and the Hoysalas were able to resist for so long, using evidence from the chapter.

**Ans. :** The Eastern Ganga kingdom and Hoysalas resisted the Delhi Sultanate due to strategic advantages. The Eastern Gangas, under Narasimhadeva I, used Kalinga's terrain and military strength to defeat the Sultanate's Bengal governor, building the Surya temple at Konark to mark their victories. The Hoysalas, in Karnataka, leveraged their fortified lands and cultural unity, seen in temples like Belur and Halebidu. Both had strong leaders and community support, resisting until the Hoysalas were absorbed into the Vijayanagara Empire in the 14th century. Their geography, military strength, and social cohesion were key to their success.

101. As a member of Akbar's court, you are tasked with explaining to a visiting scholar how his policies strengthened the Mughal Empire. Provide three reasons with examples from the chapter.

**Ans. :** Akbar strengthened the Mughal Empire through several key policies. One of the most important was his religious tolerance. His sulh-i-kul policy, which abolished the jizya tax, helped unite Hindus and Muslims. He also encouraged interfaith dialogues and took the initiative to translate important Sanskrit texts, like the Mahabharata, into Persian. This promoted understanding and cooperation between different religious groups. Another key factor in Akbar's success was his diplomatic alliances.

By marrying Rajput princesses, he secured their loyalty, which reduced rebellions and helped expand Mughal control. An example of this is the integration of Chittor into the empire. Lastly, Akbar's efficient administration played a vital role. The mansabdari system helped organise officers to maintain large armies, while Todar Mai's land surveys ensured fair tax collection, which boosted the empire's wealth and stability. These combined policies made the Mughal Empire stronger, more unified, and well-governed.

102. Create a timeline of five key events from the chapter between 1192 and 1699, and briefly describe the importance of first battle of Panipal

**Ans. :** Timeline of Key Events (1192-1699):

1192: Defeat of Prithviraj Chauhan, marking the start of the Delhi Sultanate.

1526: First Battle of Panipat, where Babur founded the Mughal Empire.

1565: Battle of Talikota, leading to fall of the Vijayanagara Empire.



1576: Battle of Haldighati, Maharana Pratap's resistance against the Mughals.

1699: Formation of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh.

Significance of the First Battle of Panipat (1526): The First Battle of Panipat in 1526 was a major turning point in Indian history. Babur's victory over Ibrahim Lodi not only led to the establishment of the Mughal Empire but also introduced gunpowder warfare to India, which changed the way battles were fought. This battle marked the end of the Delhi Sultanate's rule and the rise of the Mughals, laying the foundation for their dominance in India for centuries to come. The victory reshaped the political landscape and set the course for the future of the subcontinent.

103. Imagine you are an artist in the court of Krishnadevaraya tasked with designing a panel for the Vitthala temple. Describe a scene depicting daily life in Vijayanagara, including at least three elements (e.g., people, activities, objects). Explain how your design reflects the culture and prosperity of the empire.

**Ans. :** As an artist in the court of Krishnadevaraya, I would design a scene that captures the vibrancy and prosperity of Vijayanagara. In the foreground, I would show a lively market where merchants, including a Portuguese trader, are exchanging spices and textiles, reflecting the empire's thriving trade. To one side, I would depict musicians playing traditional instruments while artisans carve the famous musical pillars of the Vitthala temple, highlighting the empire's rich cultural heritage.

Lastly, I would include farmers carrying baskets of rice and sugarcane, showing the importance of agriculture to the empire's wealth. This scene would highlight how Vijayanagara prospered through its trade, culture, and agriculture, making it a powerful and flourishing empire.

\* Match the Following.

[10]

Column A	Column B
104. First Battle of Panipat	(i) Established the Khalsa
105. Krishnadevaraya	(ii) Moved capital to Daulatabad
106. Sustainable use of natural resources	(iii) Marked the beginning of the Mughal Empire
107. Rana Kumbha	(iv) Composed Amuktamalyada
108. Muhammad bin Tughlaq	(v) Built Kumbhalgarh Fort

- (a) 1 - (i), 2 - (iv), 3 - (ii), 4 - (y), 5 - (ii)  
(b) 1 - (v), 2 - (iv), 3 - (i), 4 - (iv), 5 - (ii)  
(c) 1 - (iii), 2 - (iv), 3 - (i), 4 - (v), 5 - (ii)  
(d) 1 - (iv), 2 - (v), 3 - (iv), 4 - (i), 5 - (ii)

**Ans. :**

- (c) 1 - (iii), 2 - (iv), 3 - (i), 4 - (v), 5 - (ii)



Column A	Column B
109. Ala-ud-din Khilji	(i) Introduced mansabdari system
110. Akbar	(ii) Called himself 'Sikander Sani'
111. Guru Gobind Singh	(iii) Ahom military commander
112. Todar Mai	(iv) Established the Khalsa Borphukan
113. Lachit	(v) Revenue system reforms

**Ans. :** self

**\* CASE BASED QUESTIONS**

**[4]**

Babur left a candid autobiography of great historical value, Baburnama ('Babur's Memoirs'). In it, he comes out as cultured and intellectually curious, with a keen appreciation for architecture, poetry, animals (birds in particular, many of which he lists in some detail) and flora (fruit trees especially). But he was also a brutal and ruthless conqueror, slaughtering entire populations of cities, enslaving women and children, and taking pride in erecting 'towers of skulls' made from the slaughtered people of plundered cities.

Babur was nostalgic about Central Asia and found India to be a 'country of few charms'; at the same time, he acknowledged, "Hindustan is a large country and has masses of gold and silver. Through the rainy season, the air is remarkably fine, not to be surpassed for healthiness and charm. There are countless artisans and workmen of every sort in Hindustan." Perhaps for the last reasons, especially India's wealth, he decided to stay and build his empire in India rather than return to Central Asia.

114. What is the Baburnama, and what does it reveal about Babur?

115. How does the source show the dual nature of Babur's character?

116. Why might Babur have stayed in India despite finding it less charming than Central Asia?

**Ans. :** 1. The Baburnama is Babur's autobiography, which details his conquests and observations. It reveals his love for poetry, architecture, and personal natural world especially the birds, fruit trees, showing his cultured side.

2. The source highlights Babur's dual nature because, on one hand, he was intellectual, as seen in his detailed memoir, and on the other, he was cruel, killing and enslaving people, shown by his building of the "towers of skulls."

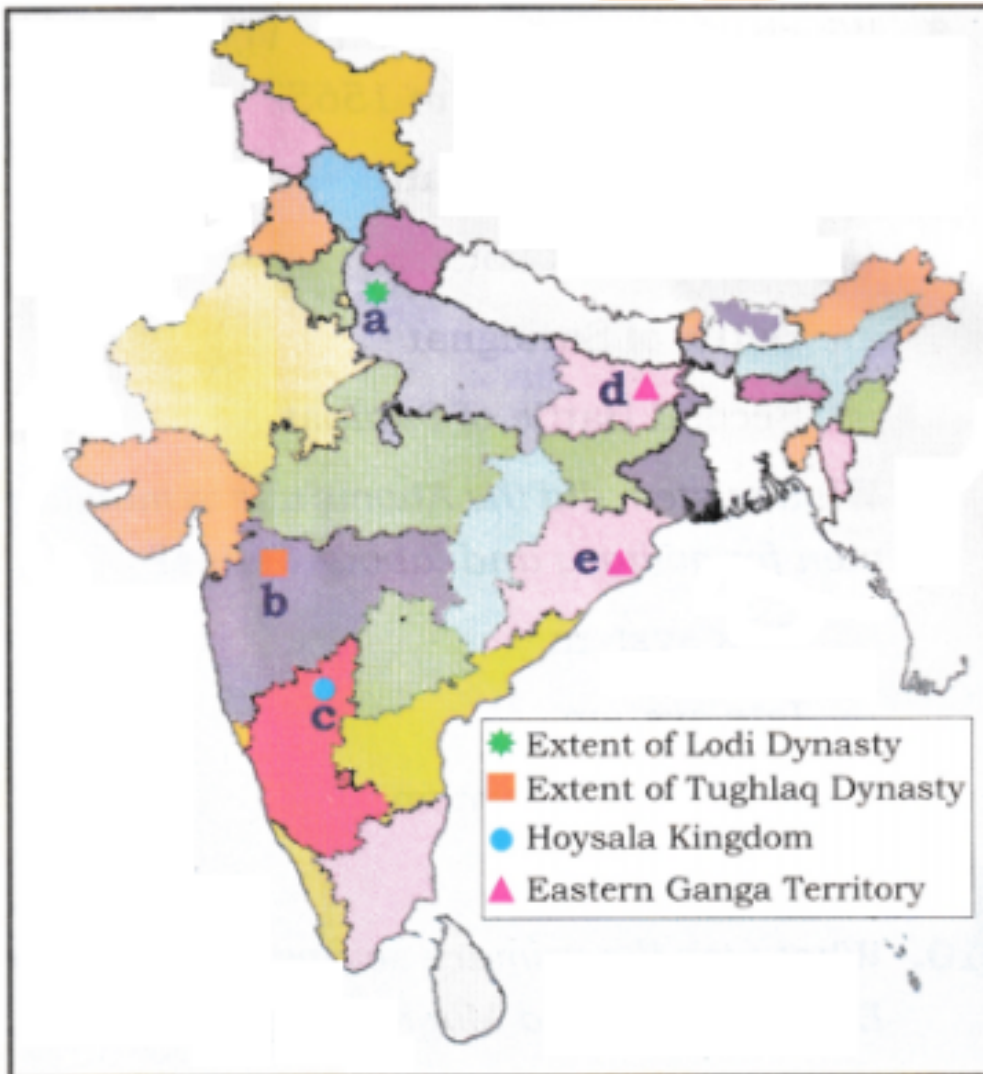
3. Babur stayed in India for its wealth (gold and silver), vast resources, and the presence of skilled artisans, as mentioned in the Baburnama, despite missing Central Asia's charm.

\* MAP SKILL BASED QUESTION

[6]

117. On the given political map of India, five places related to medieval kingdoms (13th to 15th centuries) are marked. Write the name of the correct kingdom or empire for each place.

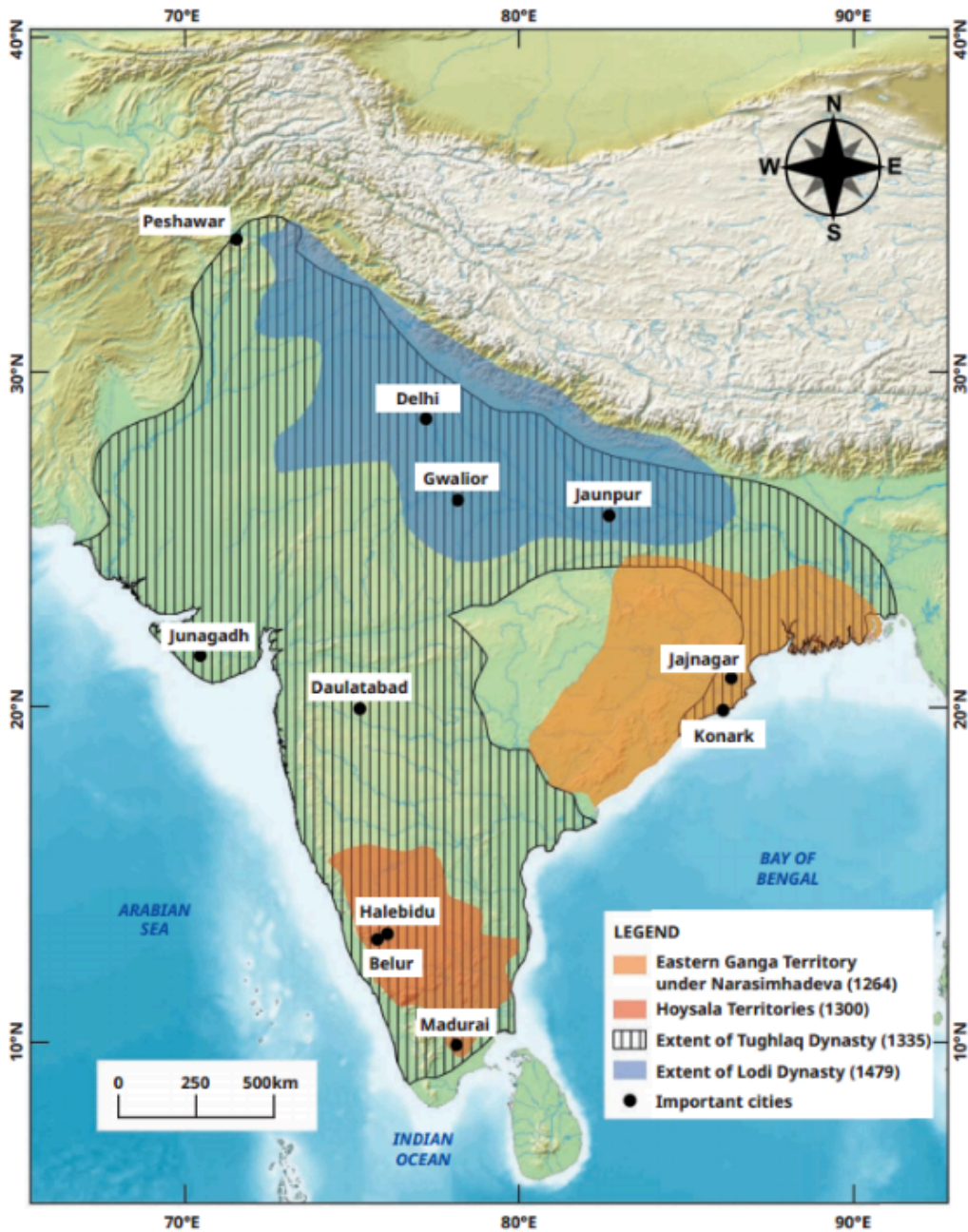
- Delhi
- Halebidu
- Jajnagar
- Konark
- Daulatabad



- Ans. : (a) Delhi  
(b) Daulatabad  
(c) Halebidu  
(d) Jajnagar

Student Bro

(e) Konark

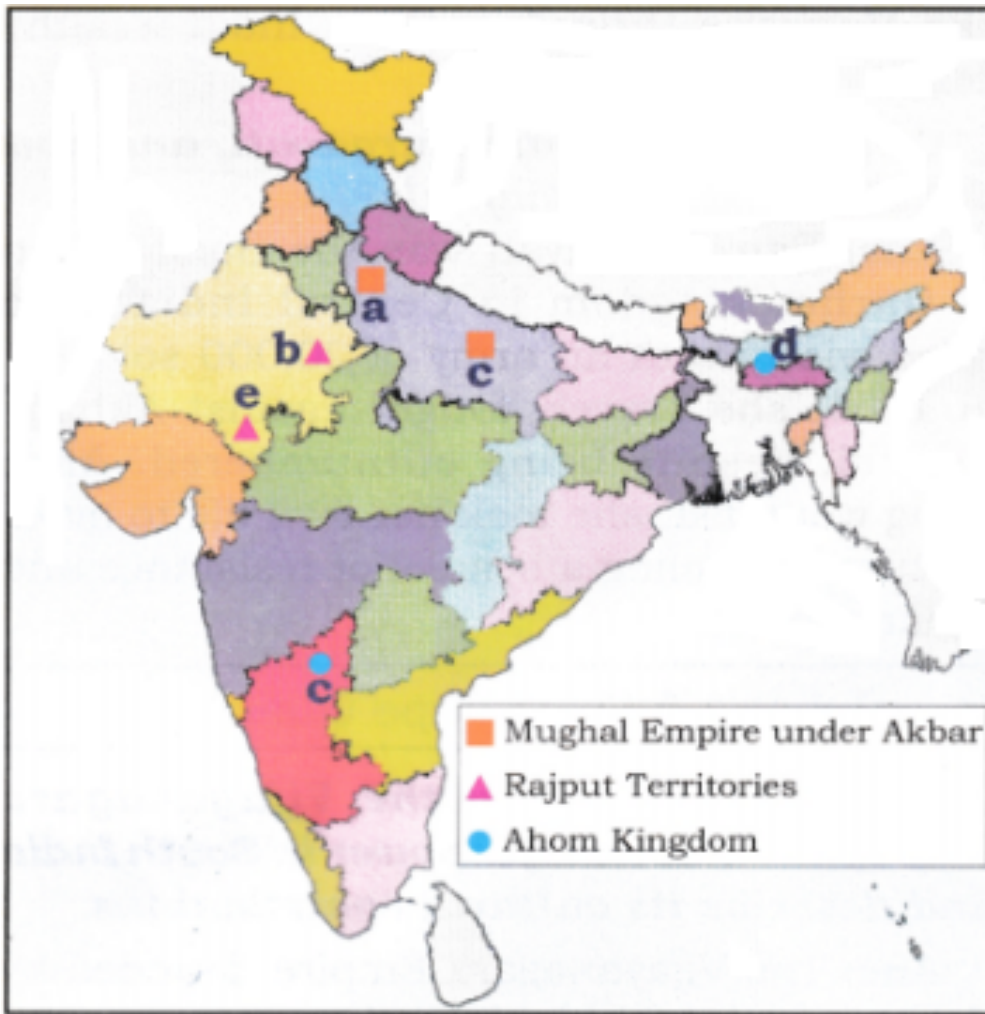


118. On the given political map of India, five places related to the Mughal Empire and regional powers are marked. Write the name of the correct empire or kingdom for each place.

- Delhi
- Agra
- Jaipur
- Mewar

Student Bro

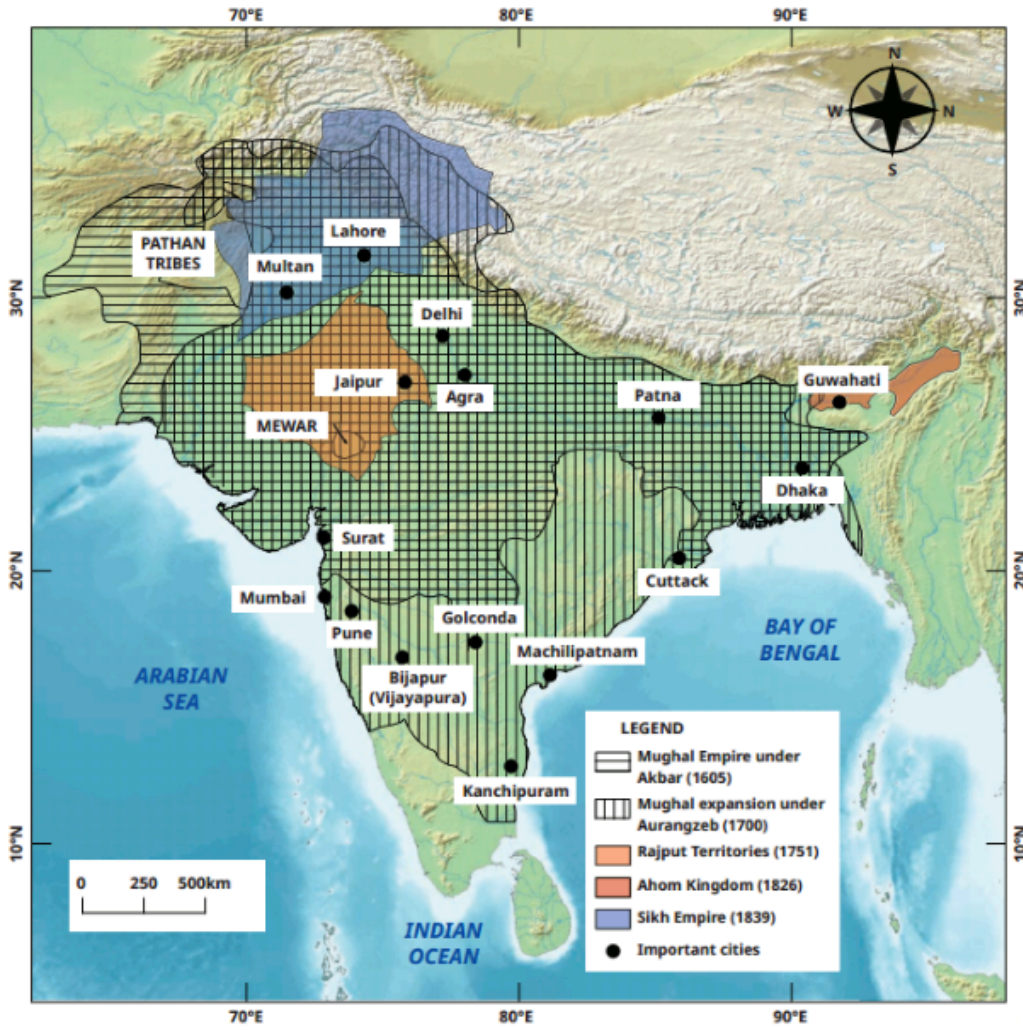
• Guwahati



Ans. : (a) Delhi  
(b) Jaipur  
(c) Agra  
(e) Mewar

Student Bro

(d) Guwahati



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