

# Gallant IAS Academy

## Gurushishya 3.0 Prelims Telepathy

### Medieval India potential Revision Areas

### UPSC Prelims 2024

---

- ✓ Early Medieval India (600-1200 CE)
  - ✓ Harsha and his Empire
  - ✓ Administration and Governance: Centralized power with a bureaucratic structure; local governance allowed some autonomy. Established efficient administrative units called "Bhuktis."
  - ✓ Cultural and Religious Contributions: Patron of Buddhism, organized the Kannauj Assembly, authored Sanskrit plays ("Ratnavali," "Nagananda," "Priyadarsika"). Supported Nalanda University and invited Chinese traveler Xuanzang.
  - ✓ Key Battles and Political Expansion: Defeated by Pulakeshin II of the Chalukya dynasty on the banks of the Narmada River. Expanded his empire from Punjab to Bengal, establishing Kannauj as his capital.
  - ✓ Literary Contributions: Bana's "Harshacharita" provides a detailed account of his reign. Supported scholars like Mayura and Matanga.
  - ✓ Diplomatic Relations: Sent emissaries to China, strengthening international relations. Maintained cordial relations with the rulers of Assam and Bengal.
  - ✓ Economic Policies: Supported trade and agricultural development, ensuring a prosperous economy. Developed road infrastructure for trade and communication.
- ✓ Chalukyas of Badami
  - ✓ Important Rulers: Pulakeshin II defeated Harsha and expanded the empire; Vikramaditya I reasserted Chalukya power. Kirtivarman I and Mangalesha expanded the territory.
  - ✓ Architectural Contributions: Developed Vesara style; notable sites include Aihole and Pattadakal. Constructed rock-cut temples in Badami.
  - ✓ Conflicts with Pallavas: Prolonged conflict, particularly with Narasimhavarman I who temporarily occupied Vatapi. Pulakeshin II defeated Pallava king Mahendravarman I.
  - ✓ Literary Patronage: Supported Kannada and Sanskrit literature; court poet Ravikirti. Contributions to Tamil literature during their rule in Tamil Nadu.
  - ✓ Economic Prosperity: Flourished under trade routes connecting to the Arabian Sea. Encouraged internal and external trade, particularly with Persia and Arabia.
  - ✓ Cultural Contributions: Promoted Hinduism and Jainism, evidenced by temple inscriptions. Patronized arts and established educational institutions.
- ✓ Rashtrakutas
  - ✓ Prominent Rulers: Dantidurga founded the dynasty; Amoghavarsha I known for his patronage of literature. Krishna I and Govinda III expanded the empire.

- ✓ Architectural Contributions: Ellora Caves (Kailasa temple), an example of rock-cut architecture. Built the famous rock-cut Jain temple at Ellora.
  - ✓ Political Achievements: Successfully conducted raids into the Gangetic plains; defeated Pratiharas and Palas. Expanded their territory from the Narmada to the Tungabhadra.
  - ✓ Literary Contributions: Amoghavarsha's "Kavirajamarga" in Kannada literature. Supported the development of Prakrit and Sanskrit literature.
  - ✓ Economic Activities: Trade with Arab merchants, enhancing wealth and cultural exchange. Developed agriculture and irrigation systems.
  - ✓ Cultural Achievements: Supported Jainism and Vaishnavism; built numerous temples and educational institutions. Encouraged the arts and architecture, fostering a vibrant cultural scene.
- 
- ✓ Pallavas
  - ✓ Notable Rulers: Mahendravarman I and Narasimhavarman I (constructed Mahabalipuram monuments). Nandivarman II Pallavamalla.
  - ✓ Architectural Contributions: The Shore Temple, Pancha Rathas, and Varaha Cave Temple. Developed early examples of Dravidian architecture.
  - ✓ Military Achievements: Defeated Pulakeshin II and expanded the empire. Defended against the Chalukyas and other regional powers.
  - ✓ Cultural Contributions: Patronized Tamil and Sanskrit literature; supported Bhakti movement. Encouraged the development of classical dance and music.
  - ✓ Religious Impact: Promoted Shaivism; Mahabalipuram served as a center for temple architecture. Built numerous temples and supported various religious activities.
  - ✓ Economic Prosperity: Trade with Southeast Asia, boosting regional wealth. Developed port cities facilitating maritime trade.
- 
- ✓ Cholas
  - ✓ Key Rulers: Rajaraja I (expanded empire, built Brihadeeswarar Temple), Rajendra I (Southeast Asia expeditions). Kulothunga Chola I and Rajadhiraja Chola.
  - ✓ Administrative Reforms: Efficient local governance with village assemblies (sabhas and ur). Introduced systematic revenue collection and land surveys.
  - ✓ Maritime Trade: Conquered parts of Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia; maintained a powerful navy. Trade with China, Southeast Asia, and the Arab world.
  - ✓ Architectural Contributions: Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur, Gangaikonda Cholapuram. Development of the Dravidian architectural style.
  - ✓ Cultural Achievements: Flourishing of Tamil literature; patronage of arts and dance forms. Contributions to Tamil poetry, music, and drama.
  - ✓ Religious Impact: Built numerous temples promoting Shaivism and Vaishnavism. Supported various religious festivals and activities.
- 
- ✓ Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526 CE)

- ✓ Establishment and Expansion
  - ✓ Founding Figures: Qutb-ud-din Aibak (established Sultanate); Iltutmish (consolidated power, introduced Iqta system). Built Qutub Minar and Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque.
  - ✓ Administrative Innovations: Iqta system for land revenue collection; established efficient military departments. Established coins and monetary system.
  - ✓ Notable Monuments: Completion of Qutub Minar, construction of the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque. Development of Indo-Islamic architecture.
  - ✓ Economic Policies: Strengthened trade networks, controlled minting of coins. Supported artisans and traders, leading to economic prosperity.
  - ✓ Military Campaigns: Expansion into northern India, subjugation of local kingdoms. Consolidated power through military strength and strategic alliances.
  - ✓ Cultural Contributions: Promotion of Persian culture and language; patronage of arts and architecture. Development of Delhi as a cultural and political center.
- 
- ✓ Khilji Dynasty
  - ✓ Alauddin Khilji's Reforms: Market control, price regulation, establishment of state granaries. Reorganized the army and introduced strict administrative policies.
  - ✓ Military Conquests: Conquered Gujarat, Ranthambore, Chittor, Malwa; southern expeditions led by Malik Kafur. Extended control over Deccan and Southern India.
  - ✓ Economic Measures: Introduced market reforms to control inflation; regulated weights and measures. Established state monopolies on certain goods.
  - ✓ Architectural Contributions: Alai Darwaza, expansion of Qutub Minar complex. Development of Indo-Islamic architecture.
  - ✓ Cultural Impact: Patronage of Persian literature; Amir Khusrau's works flourished. Promotion of music, poetry, and literature.
  - ✓ Political Reforms: Centralized administration, efficient spy system to control rebellion. Strengthened the power of the Sultanate.
- 
- ✓ Tughlaq Dynasty
  - ✓ Muhammad bin Tughlaq's Innovations: Shifted capital to Daulatabad, introduced token currency (copper coins). Attempted large-scale administrative reforms.
  - ✓ Firuz Shah Tughlaq's Contributions: Built canals, rest houses (Sarais), hospitals; founded cities like Firuzabad. Promoted agriculture and irrigation.
  - ✓ Architectural Achievements: Establishment of cities, construction of mosques and fortifications. Development of Indo-Islamic architecture.
  - ✓ Administrative Policies: Expanded tax base, reformed revenue systems. Introduced efficient governance and public welfare measures.
  - ✓ Military Campaigns: Expansion into the Deccan, consolidation of northern territories. Strengthened military defenses and fortifications.
  - ✓ Cultural Impact: Patronized scholars and writers, translated Sanskrit works into Persian. Promoted arts and education.

- ✓ Sayyid and Lodi Dynasties
- ✓ Founding Rulers: Khizr Khan (Sayyid dynasty), Bahlul Lodi (Lodi dynasty). Established control over Delhi and surrounding regions.
- ✓ Political Achievements: Reestablished control over Delhi, expanded territories. Strengthened administrative and military structures.
- ✓ Administrative Reforms: Enhanced military organization, efficient revenue collection. Focused on improving governance and public order.
- ✓ Cultural Contributions: Patronage of architecture, construction of tombs and mosques. Promoted Persian culture and literature.
- ✓ Decline Factors: Internal conflicts, rise of regional powers, weakened central authority. Invasion by Babur leading to the establishment of the Mughal Empire.
- ✓ Economic Policies: Focus on agricultural productivity, trade regulation. Supported local artisans and trade networks.
  
- ✓ Regional Kingdoms
- ✓ Vijayanagara Empire (continued)
- ✓ Founders: Harihara and Bukka; established centralized administration. Created a strong military and administrative structure.
- ✓ Prominent Rulers: Krishnadevaraya (expanded empire, patronized arts, wrote "Amuktamalyada"). Achyuta Deva Raya and Sadasiva Raya.
- ✓ Architectural Achievements: Hampi's Virupaksha Temple, Vittala Temple, Hazara Rama Temple. Development of Dravidian architecture.
- ✓ Military Campaigns: Defended against Bahmani and Deccan Sultanates, expanded southern territories. Conducted successful military campaigns against the Gajapatis of Odisha.
- ✓ Economic Prosperity: Flourished through trade, agriculture, and temple economy. Developed a strong trade network with Southeast Asia and Europe, facilitated by the ports on the Coromandel Coast.
- ✓ Cultural Contributions: Supported Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, and Sanskrit literature; promoted religious tolerance and patronized both Hindu and Jain institutions. Introduced new styles of music and dance, contributing to the Carnatic tradition.
  
- ✓ Bahmani Kingdom
- ✓ Founders: Ala-ud-Din Bahman Shah; significant rulers include Muhammad Shah I and Firoz Shah Bahmani.
- ✓ Conflicts with Vijayanagara: Frequent wars over Raichur Doab, territorial disputes. Notable battles include the Battle of Talikota.
- ✓ Cultural Contributions: Fusion of Persian and Deccan culture, development of Indo-Islamic architecture (Gol Gumbaz, Jamia Masjid). Promoted the Deccan school of painting and literature.

- ✓ Economic Activities: Trade with the Persian Gulf, establishment of marketplaces. Introduced reforms to improve agricultural productivity and tax collection.
- ✓ Administrative Policies: Efficient tax collection, military reforms. Established a decentralized administrative system with strong local governance.
- ✓ Architectural Achievements: Construction of mosques, palaces, and fortifications. Developed the city of Bidar as a cultural and architectural hub.
  
- ✓ Rajput Kingdoms
- ✓ Key Clans: Chauhans (Prithviraj Chauhan), Sisodias (Rana Kumbha, Rana Sanga), Rathores (Rao Jodha). Built and expanded fortresses and palaces.
- ✓ Major Battles: Battle of Tarain (1191 and 1192); Prithviraj Chauhan vs. Muhammad Ghori. Battle of Khanwa between Rana Sanga and Babur.
- ✓ Architectural Contributions: Forts (Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh), palaces (City Palace in Udaipur), temples (Dilwara Temples). Developed distinct Rajput architectural styles.
- ✓ Cultural Achievements: Patronized Rajput painting and sculpture, development of regional literature. Promoted folk music, dance, and poetry.
- ✓ Religious Impact: Promoted Hinduism, supported temple construction. Patronized Jain and Vaishnavite traditions.
- ✓ Economic Policies: Focused on agrarian economy, trade in opium, textiles, and spices. Encouraged the establishment of trade routes and marketplaces.
  
- ✓ Mughal Empire (1526-1707 CE)
  
- ✓ Babur and Humayun
- ✓ Establishment of the Mughal Empire: Victory at the First Battle of Panipat (1526), Battle of Khanwa (1527). Consolidated power through a series of military campaigns.
- ✓ Architectural Contributions: Laid foundations for Mughal architecture (Babri Masjid, gardens). Introduced the Charbagh (four-quartered garden) layout.
- ✓ Cultural Contributions: Introduced Persian culture, literature, and art. Encouraged the translation of Persian classics into local languages.
- ✓ Military Campaigns: Expanded territories in northern India. Established strategic alliances with regional rulers.
- ✓ Diplomatic Relations: Maintained alliances with Persian and Central Asian rulers. Sent emissaries to neighboring states.
- ✓ Economic Policies: Supported agriculture and trade, ensuring revenue generation. Introduced land revenue reforms and standardized currency.
  
- ✓ Akbar
- ✓ Administrative Reforms: Introduced Mansabdari system, efficient revenue system (Raja Todar Mal's bandobast). Established a centralized bureaucracy.
- ✓ Religious Policies: Din-i-Ilahi, policy of Sulh-i-Kul (universal tolerance). Abolished Jizya (tax on non-Muslims) and promoted religious discussions at the Ibadat Khana.

- ✓ Expansion and Consolidation: Conquered Gujarat, Bengal, Rajasthan, Deccan. Established control over major parts of the Indian subcontinent.
  - ✓ Cultural Contributions: Patronized arts, literature, and architecture (Fatehpur Sikri, Akbarnama). Supported the development of Mughal painting and music.
  - ✓ Military Achievements: Successfully conducted numerous military campaigns; established strong fortifications and defense systems. Built a powerful and organized army.
  - ✓ Economic Policies: Promoted trade and commerce, developed infrastructure. Standardized weights and measures, regulated market prices.
- 
- ✓ Jahangir and Shah Jahan
  - ✓ Contributions to Art and Architecture: Jahangir (patron of painting, developed Mughal miniatures), Shah Jahan (Taj Mahal, Red Fort). Introduced innovations in Mughal architecture.
  - ✓ Administration and Governance: Continued Akbar's policies, expansion of Mughal territory. Maintained a strong central authority and efficient administration.
  - ✓ Military Campaigns: Expanded the empire through strategic conquests. Conducted successful military campaigns in the Deccan and Central Asia.
  - ✓ Cultural Contributions: Patronized arts, literature, and music. Developed a distinctive Mughal style in painting and calligraphy.
  - ✓ Economic Policies: Promoted trade and commerce, enhanced infrastructure. Supported the development of handicrafts and industries.
  - ✓ Diplomatic Relations: Established diplomatic ties with European powers. Sent emissaries to Persia and Central Asia.
- 
- ✓ Aurangzeb
  - ✓ Expansion and Military Campaigns: Deccan campaigns, conquest of Bijapur and Golconda. Expanded Mughal territory to its greatest extent.
  - ✓ Religious Policies: Reintroduction of Jizya, orthodox Sunni Islam practices. Opposed religious syncretism and promoted Islamic orthodoxy.
  - ✓ Decline of the Mughal Empire: Overextension, internal rebellions (Marathas, Sikhs), weakened central control. Struggles with regional powers and financial strains.
  - ✓ Administrative Policies: Maintained strict control over administration. Implemented rigorous tax collection and revenue policies.
  - ✓ Architectural Contributions: Built the Bibi Ka Maqbara in Aurangabad. Continued the development of Mughal architecture.
  - ✓ Cultural Impact: Patronized Islamic scholars and theologians. Opposed the cultural pluralism promoted by his predecessors.
- 
- ✓ Cultural Developments
  - ✓ Bhakti and Sufi Movements

- ✓ Key Saints and Their Teachings: Kabir (syncretic beliefs, criticized ritualism), Guru Nanak (founder of Sikhism, emphasized equality), Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (promoted devotion to Krishna). Meera Bai (devotion to Krishna), Tulsidas (Ramcharitmanas), Sant Tukaram.
- ✓ Influence on Society and Culture: Promoted social reforms, religious tolerance, vernacular languages. Emphasized personal devotion and direct connection with God.
- ✓ Literary Contributions: Produced extensive devotional literature in regional languages. Influenced the development of Bhakti poetry and songs.
- ✓ Social Impact: Challenged caste hierarchy, promoted social equality. Encouraged the participation of women and lower castes in religious activities.
- ✓ Integration with Local Traditions: Merged local cultural practices with broader religious philosophies. Fostered the growth of regional cultural identities.
- ✓ Institutional Developments: Established community centers and places of worship. Supported the development of monastic and Sufi orders.
- ✓ Literature and Arts
- ✓ Development of Regional Languages and Literature: Growth of vernacular literature (Sant Kabir's dohas, Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas, Amir Khusrau's poetry). Development of Marathi, Kannada, Telugu, and Bengali literature.
- ✓ Mughal Painting and Miniature Art: Illustrated manuscripts (Akbarname, Hamzanama), development of unique styles (Rajput, Pahari schools). Patronized by Mughal emperors and regional kings.
- ✓ Architectural Styles and Significant Monuments: Indo-Islamic architecture (Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb), temple architecture (Khajuraho, Sun Temple at Konark). Evolution of different regional styles.
- ✓ Cultural Syncretism: Blending of Persian, Indian, and Central Asian influences in arts and culture. Development of unique artistic traditions.
- ✓ Patronage of Arts: Supported by rulers and nobility, leading to a flourishing of artistic activities. Established schools and workshops for artists.
- ✓ Influence on Society: Reflected social, religious, and political changes. Played a role in shaping cultural and national identities.

# GALLANT IAS