Developments in the rest of the world from 5th century onwards

**EUROPE**

Roman empire broken into two by 6th century: West, with capital at Rome, overwhelmed by Slav and Germanic tribesmen. Tribes settled down and set the foundation for modern European nations.

East, with capital at Constantinople, encompassed eastern Europe, Turkey, Syria and North Africa and was called Byzantine Empire. Followed centralized administration but differed with Catholic Church. Founded another branch called the Greek Orthodox Church which later spread to Russia.

Byzantines continued to trade with Asia and acted as a bridge between Greco-Roman civilization and Arabs. Byzantine empire disappeared in middle of 15th century when Constantinople fell to Turks.

After collapse of western roman empire, cities disappeared and trade declined. Called “Dark Ages”. Revival occurred in 10th century century. 12th to 14th century saw rapid progress and prosperity and a new outlook towards life. Universities were established and helped in dissemination of knowledge and growth of new ideas. This eventually led to Renaissance.

**Feudalism** emerged. Many political, economic and military factors responsible for its rise. Most powerful elements were the chiefs who dominated large tracts of land with military power and played an important part in government. King was in effect the most powerful feudal chief. Tensions arose time and again between the king and vassals (fiefs). Government was thus dominated by landed aristocracy which was hereditary. Features of feudal system:

1. Landed aristocracy 2. Serfdom and Manor system 3. Military organization

Serfs = peasants who had to compulsorily work on the land. Manor = the house where the landlord lived. Serfs had to cultivate the lands surrounding the manor and give a part of the produce to the landlord. Landlord was tasked with dispensing justice and maintaining law and order. This system disappeared from Western Europe after 14th century.

Cavalry gained popularity in warfare because of **iron stirrup and a new harness which allowed the horse to pull twice the weight it pulled earlier.** These inventions came to West from East Asia and were introduced in India from 10th century. King could not maintain such a large cavalry with so many soldiers. So army was decentralized and the feudal lords were asked to maintain a predetermined army from their pockets. In most cases, fiefs collected taxes from peasantry, gave a tribute to the king, maintained the army and used the rest for personal consumption.

In India, there was no serfdom or manor system but local fiefs (Samantas) exercised similar powers, with the peasantry dependent upon them.

Cultural life in Europe was also shaped by Catholic Church. It took on political functions and exercised moral authority as well. Many monastic orders and denominations were established due to the revenue obtained from tax free land grants by feudal chiefs and kings. Churches served the poor and needy, gave medical aid and shelter to travellers and served as centres for education and learning.

**ARABS**

**Islam** united warring arab tribes into a powerful empire. Abbasids came to power as Caliphs at Baghdad in middle of 8th century. Claimed to belong to same tribe as prophet Muhammad. Most powerful empire for ~150 yrs. Controlled parts of North Africa, Egypt, Syria, iran and Iraq and important trade routes connecting India and China with the Mediterranean. Region attained prosperity by levying taxes on trade and due to enterprising arab merchants. Many Chinese inventions like compass, paper, printing, gun powder reached Europe from China through Arabs.

Arabs assimilated scientific knowledge and administrative skills of empires they had overrun. They employed non-muslims for running administration.

Bait-ul-hikmat = house of wisdom – translating literature from various empires into Arabic.

India did not enjoy close cultural contact with Arabs. Sindh was conquered in 8th century. Decimal system reached Arabs from India after this and was popularized by Al-Khwarizmi. Suryasiddhanta (Astronomy – Aryabhatta) was translated and Charaksamhita, Sushrutsamhita were also translated.

Arabs built up on this knowledge and made immense contributions to science and technology after 10th century. Major work was done in Spain, Khorasan, Egypt etc. But is called Arabic because of the language used to communicate these achievements. Remarkable degree of intellectual and personal freedom enjoyed by scientists and scholars led to a such growth of science. Europe stagnated due to rigid views of Catholic church. India also did not progress much. Arab science declined after 14th century due to growing orthodoxy and other political developments.

**EAST AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

China attained climax in 8th and 9th centuries under Tang dynasty. Exported countless goods to the West through **Silk Route.** Tangs were replaced by Sung dynasty in 10th century and then growing weakness led to Mongol invasion in13th century. Mongols unified north and south china with help of highly disciplined and mobile cavalry. They also ruled over Vietnam and Korea for some time.

Marco Polo spent some time at the court of famous Mongol ruler Kublai Khan. Visited Malabar on his way back to Italy by sea.

Sailendra dynasty – Palembang (Sumatra), Java, Malay peninsula and parts of Thailand – Sanskrit and Buddhist centres of learning – Borobudur Temple (Buddha) = mountain carved into 9 terraces surmounted by a Stupa.

Kambuja dynasty – Cambodia and Annam (South Vietnam) – group of temples near Angkor Thom = ~200 temples in 3.2 sq km area; largest = Angkor Vat – Temples contain statues of gods, goddessesm nymphs.

Temples in both the above mentioned locations had panels containing scenes from Ramayan and Mahabharat. These were also the inspiration for literature, folk dances, songs, puppets and statues.

Temple building here coincided with temple building in India. Buddhism declined in India and flourished here. Buddha was brought into Hinduism later in India whereas Hindu Gods were brought under Buddhist fold in SE Asia.

Traders of various parts of the world visited SE asia and led to comingling of different cultures. Religious tolerance existed and Indonesia and Malaya were converted to islam only after its consolidation in India. Elsewhere, Buddhism continued to flourish. Commercial and cultural contacts were snapped only after the Britishers and Dutch came in the 17th century.

Northern India [8th to 10th century]

Pala = eastern India – middle of 9th century.

Pratihara = western India and upper gangetic valley – middle of 10th century.

Rashtrakuta = Deccan and varying parts north and south of it.

Palas and Pratiharas battled for Kanauj to fill vacuum after Harsha’s death. Palas = Gopala, Dharampala, Devapala. Warred with Pratiharas for control over Banaras to South Bihar. Dharampal was defeated by Rashtrakuta Dhruva and failed to consolidate power over Kanauj. Pratiharas revived under Nagabhatta II. Dharampal fell back and was killed. Devapala diverted energies towards east and conquered parts of Assam, Orissa and Nepal. Palas were restricted to east India more often than not. Info on them provided by Arab merchants and Tibetan chronicles.

Dharampal revived Nalanda university and set aside 200 villages for its expenses. Also established Vikramshila university atop a hill near Ganga in Magadh. Built lots of viharas and had close cultural relations with Tibet and with the Sailendra dynasty. A request by Sailendra king to set up monastery at Nalanda was granted by Palas.

Pratiharas = Gurjara-Pratiharas because originated from Gujarat or SW Rajasthan. Earlier rulers failed to control upper ganga valley and Malwa due to Rashtrakutas, who defeated Pratiharas twice and later retreated to Deccan. **Bhoja** revived the empire, recovered Kanauj in 836 and made it the capital for a century. Went east but stopped by Devapala, went South for Malwa and Gujarat but stopped by Rashtrakutas. Finally turned west and conquered till east bank of Sutlej. Had the best cavalry with horses imported from central asia. Spread empire to east after death of Devapala. Was a devotee of Vishnu and took the title “Adivaraha”.

Pratiharas were patrons of learning – Great poet Rajashekhar lived at court of Mahipala, Bhoja’s grandson. Al-Masudi visited Gujarat from Baghdad in 915 and tells about Pratihara kingdom.

Rashtrakuta king Indra III attacked Kanauj between 915 and 918, and weakened Pratiharas. Gujarat also passed in Rashtrakuta hands. Loss of coast led to decline in revenues from sea trade and led to dissolution of the empire.

Rashtrakutas = founded by Dantidurga with capital at Malkhed (near Solapur). Dominated northern Maharashtra and wrestled with Pratiharas for Gujarat and Malwa. Fought constantly with eastern Chalukyas of Vengi, Pallavas of Kanchi and Pandyas of Madurai.

Greatest Rashtrakutas = Govinda III and Amoghvarsha (814-878). Govinda III annexed Kanauj, Malwa and turned South and defeated Lankan rulers. Amogh preferred pursuit of literature and religion than that of war. **Wrote first Kannada book on poetics**. Faced many rebellions in far-flung areas of empire. Empire weakened and his grandson Indra III (915-927) re-established it. He was the most powerful ruler after death of Mahipala and sacking of Kanauj.

Al-Masudi says Rashtrakuta king Balhara or Vallabhraja was the greatest king of India and most Indian rulers accepted his suzerainty. Krishna III (934-963) was the last ruler. Fought eastern chalukyas of Vengi and annexed northern part of Chol empire, built a temple at Rameswaram. All opponents united after his death and Malkhed was sacked and burnt in 972.

Rashtrakutas patronized Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Jainism. **Rock-cut Shiva temple at Ellora = Rashtrakuta king Krishna I.** They were great patrons of arts and literature. **Great apabhramsha poet Svayambhu resided at Rashtrakuta court.**

**Political Ideas and Organization**

Administrative system was based on Gupta empire, Harsha’s kingdom in the north and Chalukyas in the Deccan. King = head administrator and commander-in-chief of armed forces. Feudatories and high officials waited on the king. Court was a centre of dispensing justice, policy making and cultural events. King’s position was hereditary. Wars were frequent. **Bearing arms for self-protection was the right of an individual, according to writer Medhatithi.** Usually the eldest son succeeded, younger sons were made provincial governors, brothers fought to gain throne. Princesses were rarely appointed, but **Chandrobalabbe, Amoghvarsha I’s daughter, administered Raichur doab for sometime.**

Kings were aided by ministers, who were also hereditary. There were ministers for foreign affairs, revenue, treasurer, armed forces chief, chief justice and purohit. More than one post could be combined. There were also officials of the household (antahpur).Army was important for expansion and elephants and horses were imported from NW and via sea. Rashtrakutas had many forts guarded by regular and irregular troops. Regular troops were also hereditary.

**Territories were: 1. Directly administered and 2. Ruled by vassals.** Latter were autonomous in their internal matters and had to pay tribute to the king and maintain and provide army when called to do so.

For directly administered territories,

**In Pala and Pratihara empires,**

Bhukti (province) under Uparika (governor)

Mandala / Visaya (district) under Visayapati (head)

Pattala (unit for realization of land revenue and law and order) **Bhukti > Visaya > Pattala**

**In Rashtrakuta empire,**

Rashtra (province) under Rashtrapati

Visaya (dist) under Visayapati

Bhukti ( unit for realization of land revenue and law and order) **Rashtra > Visaya > Bhukti**

**Officials were paid by giving them grants of rent-free land, which blurred the distinction between local officials and hereditary chiefs.**

**VILLAGE was placed below these administrative units.** Its administration was carried out by village headman and village account whose posts were hereditary. They were paid by rent-free land grants.

**Headman was helped by village elders = gram-mahajan OR gram-Mahattara.** In K’taka, village committees managed local schools, temples, tanks and roads. Also decided simple disputes. Towns also had such committees with heads of trade guilds associated with it.

Law and order responsibility = koshta-pala = kotwal

Hereditary revenue officers in Deccan = nad-gavundas or desa-gramakutas.

State was essentially secular. Kings were worshippers of Shiva, Vishnu, Jainism and Buddhism but they never persecuted non-followers and patronized all religions equally. King did not interefere with Dharmashastras and had the general duty of protecting Brahmanas and the varna division. Purohit guided the king in these matters but did not exert undue influence. King’s public duty was to be placed on Arthashastra and personal duty on Dharmashastras. Thus, religion and politics were kept apart.

Northern India [11th and 12th centuries]

Rapid changes occurred in west and central asia and therefore in north India. Abassid caliphate declined by end of 9th century. Turks (heathens 🡪 Islamized) had entered caliphate as mercenaries 🡪 king-makers 🡪 rulers. Assumed titles of “Amir” and later “Sultan”. Turkish tribesmen excelled in lightning raids and plunders due to excellent horses and ability to cover incredible distances on horseback. Moved towards NW India, where the breakup of Gurjara-Pratiharas had created uncertainty and weakness.

**Ghaznavids**

Transoxiana, Khorasan and Iran were ruled by Samanids who had to battle continually with Turks in 9th century. Battle against turks = battle for religion as well as safety (coz Turks = heathens). Ghazis were born during this struggle. Ghazi = missionary+fighter. Turks gradually became Islamized and strongest defenders of Islam but ghazi struggle against non-Islamic tribes continued. Turkish slave **Alaptgin** established independent kingdom with capital at Ghazni. Ghaznavids took over defence of Islam after Samanid empire ended.

Mahmud ascended Ghazni throne in 998, till 1030. Associated with Iranian renaissance. Iranians never accepted Arabic language and culture. High watermark = **Mahmud’s poet laureate Firdausi’s Shah Namah.** Resurgence of Iranian patriotism and Persian language and culture adopted by Ghaznavid empire. Brought this to India two centuries later. Raided India 17 times and directed the plunder at Hindustani rulers and temples. Gained a toe-hold in Punjab by battling the Hindushahi rulers at Peshawar; a war in which rulers of Kanauj and Rajasthan also took part. After gaining Punjab, he plundered temples to fund his central asian campaigns. Mahmud also posed as “destroyer of images” for glory of Islam. Plundered Kanauj in 1018 and Somnath in 1025. Overran whole of north India (inc. Bundelkhand) because of absence of a strong state and presence of cavalry with mounted archers. **Did not annex any areas, only looted and plundered.** Died at Ghazni in 1030.

Death resulted in rise of **Seljuk empire** encompassing Syria, Iran and Trans-oxiana. Masud, Mahmud’s son was defeated by Seljuks and had to retreat. Ghaznavids now confined to Ghazni and Punjab and posed no real threat to India.

**Rajputs**

Came into existence after breakup of Pratiharas. Important ones:

Chauhans – Ajmer

Parmars – Malwa

Kalachuris – Jabalpur

Gahadavals – Kanauj

Chandelas – Bundelkhand

Chalukyas – Gujarat

Tomars – Delhi

Simultaneous expansionist urges and frequent quarrels amongst the Rajputs prevented them from uniting against Ghaznavids. Basis of Rajput society = clan. Attachment to land, family and honour was characteristic of Rajputs. Feudal organization based on clans prevailed.

Advantages of Rajput society = sense of brotherhood and egalitarianism.

Disadvantages = difficult to maintain discipline, feuds continued for several generations, formed exclusive groups and no brotherhood with common people who were non-Rajputs.

Treated war as sport. This and struggle for land and cattle led to continuous warfare. Most Rajputs were champions of Hinduism. Stood as protectors of brahmanas and caste system. Gave concessions and privileges to brahmanas who in return recognized rajputs as descendants of solar and lunar dynasties of kshatriyas. Brahmanism revived and Sanskrit replaced Prakrit and Apabhramsha among upper classes, but literature was closer to local languages and continued to be produced in prakrit and apabhramsha. Local languages = Marathi, Bengali etc. Emerged in this period.

**Period between 10th and 12th centuries = climax in temple building activity in north india.**

**Nagara style. North India and Deccan.** Tall, curved, spiral roof over chief deity room (garbhagriha, deul). Mandapa (anteroom) in front of sanctum. High walls and lofty gates. Examples are **the Chandella-built Parsvanath Temple, Vishvanath Temple and Kandarya Mahadeo temple at Khajuraho in MP and Lingaraj Temple (11th cent) and Konark Sun Temple (13th cent) at Orissa (Bhuvaneshwar). Jagannath temple at Puri also belongs to this period.** Temples = centres of cultural life. **Vastupal = minister of Chalukyan King Bhima = writer, patron and builder of Jain temple@Mt. Abu.**

Plundering by Ghaznavids and Turks was met with stout resistance but Muslim traders were welcomed in order to encourage trade with central asia and west asia. Colonies of muslims were established and along with them came the **Sufis, who preached love, faith and dedication to one god.** Hindu-muslim interactions increased and soon, hindu leaders commanded ghaznavid armies and recruited hindu soldiers.

**In middle of 12th century,** part-buddhist part-pagan Turkish tribesmen destroyed Seljuks and two new powers arose: **Khwarizmi empire in Iran and Ghurid empire in Ghur (NW Afghanistan).** Former dominated central asia, forcing the latter to move towards India.

**Muhammad Ghori** ascended at Ghazni while his brother was ruling at Ghur. Conquered Multan. Attempted to conquer gUjarat but lost and realized the importance of having a base in Punjab. Moved towards Peshawar, Lahore and established rule there, poised to attack Delhi and Ganga valley.

Meanwhile, Chauhans of Ajmer overshadowed others and also killed a lot of Turks who tried to invade Rajasthan from Punjab. **Prithviraj Chauhan** ascended Ajmer. After failing to conquer Gujarat (ruler Bhima II had defeated both Ghori and Prithviraj), he turned attention towards Delhi and Ganga valley.

**Battle of Tarain in 1191 between Ghori and Prithviraj. Ghori forces defeated but Prithviraj did not annex Punjab, giving Ghori time to regroup and leading to Second Battle of Tarain in 1192. Ghori was prepared and his army and cavalry was better led. Prithviraj appealed to local rulers for help but lost. East Rajasthan and Ajmer were annexed. Prithviraj was captured and allowed to rule Ajmer for sometime before being executed. His son succeeded him, Delhi was restored to a Tomar ruler. Both decisions were reversed, Delhi became a base for Turks and Prithviraj’s son moved to Ranthambore to establish Chauhan kingdom there.**

In order to establish rule over Ganga valley, Ghori had to defeat Gadhvals of Kanauj. He defeated Jaichandra at Chandawar near Kanauj. **Battles of Tarain and Chandawar laid foundation of Turkish rule in India. Ghori,** while going home before Chandawar battle, **had placed the Indian rule under his slave – Qutbuddin Aibak. Ghori died in 1206.**

Aibak captured Khajuraho and Kalinjar from Chandellas. Then Gujarat from Bhima II, which threw of Turkish rule soon afterwards. Turks were more successful in the east. **Baakhtiyar Khalji** was appointed the in-charge for some provinces in the east. He gathered an army and stealthily moved towards Nadia, the capital of Sena kings of Bengal. Stealthily attacked Lakshman Sena and captured Nadia (in 1204), but could not hold on to it due to large number and size of rivers. Withdrew and fixed his capital at Lakhnauti in north Bengal while Lakshman Sena continued to rule in the south. Khalji foolishly attempted an invasion of Assam, was ambushed by Assamese rulers and lost the battle. Was killed soon afterwards.

Ghori continued to war for central asia and lost the face-to-face battle with Khwarizmis, leaving him to concentrate on India, resulting in a Turkish state based exclusively in iNdia. Neither Ghori nor Ghazni was concerned with Islam, they just used Islam to justify plundering Hindu temples.

Defeat of Indian rulers was because of socio-political weaknesses and not because of inferior weapons. Iron stirrups were present in India since 8th century, Indian bows were more accurate and Indian swords the best in the world. Indians had the advantage of elephants but Turks had horses which were swifter. Turk successes can be attributed to social and organizational superiority. Feudalism weakened Indian states whereas *iqta* and *khalisa* systems (explained later) of Turks enabled them to maintain big armies over longer times.

**Trade and Commerce**

Period of stagnation and decline earlier. Trade decline = decline of towns and cities. Reasons = disintegration of roman empire and of the old Sassanid empire after rise of Islam and disruption of overland trade. This changed with emergence of Arab empire in West Asia and north Africa. Demand for spices led to revival of trade with India and Southeast Asia (spice islands) from middle of 10th century onwards. Malwa and Gujarat benefited the most. Also believed that material prosperity of SE asia was based on introduction of irrigated rice-cultivation from India.

Due to less population of north India, there was a gradual decline of internal trade too and led to languishing of trade guilds (shrenis and sanghas). Guilds = people belonging to different castes, having own rules of conduct which they were legally bound to obey, entitled to lend or borrow money or receive endowments. After some time, some older shrenis emerged as sub-castes (eg. Dvadasa-shreni). Jainism also received a setback due to declining trade.

This all also led to decline in thinking of the period. Dharmashastras placed a ban on crossing certain areas or going abroad. Although several traders continued to go to different countries for business purposes, these bans were meant to dissuade people from going to areas dominated by Islam in the west or Buddhism in the east and bringing back heretical ideas which were unsuited to brahmanical way of life.

Peculiar features of language and dresses of SE Asia mentioned in **Brihatkatha-kosh by Harisena.**

Indian merchants were organized into guilds (Manigraman and Nandesi guilds). China became the focus of trade after decline of roman empire. Spices from SE asia, ivory from Africa, glassware from west asia, medicinal herbs, lac, incense etc. Were traded. Due to India’s monsoon climate, ships had to wait for long periods to travel directly from Africa to China. So, India, and chiefly Malabar port – became an important staging centre for goods from Africa, China and SE Asia. Famous Chinese port = Canton (Kanfu).

Japanese records give credit of introducing cotton in Japan to two Indians. Eventually by 13th century, Chinese govt. Tried to restrict the export of gold and silver and stem their negative balance of trade with other countries. Indian ships gradually decreased and made way for better Arab and Chinese ships (had primitive Mariner’s compass).

**Growth of Feudalism**

Rise of *samantas, ranak, rautta (rajput) etc.* They were govt servants paid by providing revenue-bearing villages, defeated rajas, local hereditary chiefs, tribal leaders. So, large tracts of land within a kingdom consisted of old rulers who looked to reassert their independence. These rulers took to administering justice and subletting land to people below them without informing the king, resulting in feudal society.

Pros – Provided security to peasants in a conflict-prone society. Feudal chiefs saw and as their own and some consequently took efforts to extent cultivation and irrigation.

Cons – Weakened royal authority. Large feudal armies could turn against the king at any time. Small states discouraged trade and promoted local village economy. Feudal domination also weaked local government.

**Condition of the people:** No decline in handicrafts and agriculture and metallurgy. Feudal chiefs assumed large titles like *mahasamantadhipati.* Big merchants also aped feudal chiefs and kings in splendour. Millionaire = *kotisvara*. There were many poor people, however. Many poor resorted to robbery and plunder. Revenue from peasants = 1/6th of produce; but there were many other additional taxes and cesses. They also had to undergo forced labour = vishti. Crops, granaries and homes were frequent in times of war and increased the burden on the common man.

**Caste system:** Was the basis of society. Disabilities suffered by lower castes increased. Inter-caste marriages were frowned upon. Almost all professions were now labelled as castes (jati). Handicrafts were considered low occupations and these people were treated as untouchables along with tribals.

Rajputs emerged as a new caste. Traced their origin to solar and lunar dynasties of Mahabharats but are believed to be descendants of Scythians and Hunas. Over time, all ruling classes not affiliated to any caste were termed Rajput and made Kshatriyas. Castes were not rigid, they could rise or fall in their varna. Earlier, people from various castes working in palaces = kayasth. Later, they were recognized as a single caste. Several tribes, Jain and Buddhist followers were hinduized and religion and society became more complex.

**Women:** Considered mentally inferior. Meant to obey husbands blindly. *Matsya Purana* authorizes husband to beat wife. Were not allowed to study Vedas. Marriageable age reduced to between 6 and 12-13, destroying scope for education. Remarriage was allowed, but rarely. Distrusted in general and kept in seclusion. Women, including widows, were given wider property rights. Growth of feudal society strengthened the concept of private property. Sati was practiced in some places.

**Food:** Vegetarianism was mainly practiced but meat-eating was lawful on certain occasions. Wine was drunk on ceremonial occasions, even by women. Fairs, festivals, excursions were common amongst common people. Kings and princes indulged in dicing, hunting and royal polo.

**Education and Science:** Mass education did not exist. People learnt what was necessary. Reading and writing was confined to upper classes. Temples made arrangements for higher level education. Main responsibility to provide education = respective guilds or families. Branches of Vedas and grammar were studied. More formal education with emphasis on secular subjects provided in Buddhist monasteries. **Nalanda, Vikramshila and Uddandapura in Bihar** were famous. **Kashmir was another important centre.** Shaiva sects flourished there. ***Mutths (*Madurai and Sringeri)** were set up in South India. Science declined. Surgery did not advance because dissection was considered the job for lower varnas. **Lilawati of Bhaskar II was a standard text for Maths.** Medicine advanced a little but no method for breeding fine horses was found, leaving India dependent on central asia.

Reasons for decline in science: Society stagnated, narrower world view, increasing orthodoxy, setback to urban life, insular nature of Indians. Al-biruni describes Brahmins of that time as haughty, conceited, foolish and vain.

**Religious movements:** Revival and expansion of Hinduism and continued decline of Jainism and Buddhism. Shiv and Vishnu became popular and others became subordinate. **Shiv and Vishnu signify the growth of cultural synthesis. Religion played a positive role in the age of disintegration.** Outbreaks of violence and forcible occupation at Buddhist and Jain temples. Buddhism confined to eastern India. Mahayan school rose and adopted elaborate rituals and mantras etc., making it indistinguishable from Hinduism.

Jainism was popular. Most magnificent temples built during 9th and 10th centuries. High watermark for Jainism in south india. Later, growing rigidity and loss of royal patronage led to decline. Dilwara temple @Mt Abu, Jainalayas as resting places for travellers, **basadis** (temples) and mahastambhs.

Revival also increased power and arrogance of brahmanas, resulting in popular vedic worship movements such as:

Gorakhnath – Nathpanthis – Tantra and tantrism – open to all, many followers of lower castes. – in north India

Bhakti movements in south India – Nayanars and Alvars (tackled earlier).

Lingayat or Vir Shaiva movement (12th cent) – Basava and Channabasava who lived in court of Kalachuri kings of K’taka – reformist, opposed castes and child marriage and fasts and sacrifices etc, allowed widow remarriage.

Intellectual movements against Jainism and Buddhism also emerged, such as:

Sankara(9th cent) – Vedanta philosophy (advaitavad/non-dualism) – upheld Vedas as fountainhead of true knowledge - God and created world are one, differences are not real but apparent due to ignorance – solution was devotion to god – could not appeal since it was less understood.

Ramanuj (11th cent) – bhakti + Vedanta – qualified dualism – god and created world are different with the potential to be one – grace of god more important for salvation than knowledge of him. Followed by Madhvacharya (Dualism/Tattvavaad) earlier, and later by Ramananda, Vallabhacharya.

Bhakti became acceptable to all sections by early 16th century.

Chola Empire [9th to 12th century]

Arose in 9th century. Developed large navy and conquered SL and Maldives. Climax in South Indian history.

Founder = Vijayalaya, a feudatory of Pallavas. Captured Tanjore in 850. Pandyas and Pallavas defeated by 9th cent. And Tamil land brought under control.

Famous rulers = Rajaraja (985-1014) and Rajendra I (1014-1044). Rajaraja spread kingdom EVERYWHERE. Quilon, Madurai, parts of SL, Maldives, NW parts of Ganga region in K’taka and Vengi. Rajendra I continued annexation. SL, Pandya and Chera countries totally overrun.

Built many temples to commemorate victories. Famous = Rajarajeshwara temple @ Tanjore completed in 1010. Long victory narratives inscribed on walls of the temples.

Exploits of Rajendra I: Marched across Kalinga, crossed Ganga and captured two kings = assumed title Gangaikondachola and founded a city Gangaikondacholapuram on mouths of Kaveri. Captured Kadaram and parts of Malay peninsula by mounting an expedition on revived Sri Vijaya empire. Both had cordial relations but Cholas wanted to remove barriers to trade with Chinese and also increase trade.

Fought constantly with Chalukyas (not of Badami, but of Kalyani :P )over Vengi (Rayalseems), Tungabhadra doab and NW K’taka. Destroyed Pandya citie and SL capital Anuradhapur. However, once conquered, Cholas set up sound administration in these cities. **Stressed on local self-government.**

Cholas and Chalukyas declined by 12th century. Former were replaced by Pandyas and Hoysalas while the latter were replaced by Yadavas and Kakatiyas. They extended patronage to arts but constantly fought one another and were conquered by Sultans on the beginning of 14th century.

**Administration**

Mandalams (provinces) 🡪 valanadu 🡪 Nadu

Built royal road for travel and movement of army. Built wells for irrigation. Officers did elaborate surveys to fix land revenue.

In villages, ur = general assembly.

Sabha or mahasabha = committee of adult men in Brahmana villages (agraharas). These villages enjoyed a lot of autonomy and members had to retire every three years. Mahasabha could settle new lands, adjudicate disputes, raise loans and levy taxes.

**Cultural life**

Kings maintained large palaces and built huge monuments.

Temple architecture attained climax under cholas. Called “**Dravida**” style because it was confined to south india. Main features = multi-storeyed chief-deity room (**garbhagriha**) in the **Vimana** style. Pillared hall = **mandap** placed in front of garbhagriha and served as audience hall and place for cultural activities like dances performed by **devdasis** = women dedicated to service of gods. **Pradakshinapath** (path encircling the grbhagriha) was sometimes built. Entire structure surrounded by lofty walls pierced by **tall gates = gopurams.** With passage of time, vimanas grew higher and gopurams grew more elaborate, thus making the temple a miniature city. Examples = **Kailasnath temple at Kanchipuram (8th century), Brihadeswara temple (Rajaraja temple) @Tanjore by Rajaraja I and Rajarajeshwara temple @Tanjore.**

Temple building continued under Chalukyas and Hoysalas. **Hoysalesvara temple@Halebid = example of chalukyan style. Sculptured panels show dance, music, scenes of war etc. In addition to images of gods and goddesses and men and women (yaksha and yakshini).**

Sculptures also attained high standard. **Giant statue of Gomateswar at Sravan Belgola. Several Nataraja masterpieces also made.**

Local language literature saw growth. Nayanars and Alvars composed works in Tamil. Sanskrit regarded language of high culture. **Writings of Nayanars and Alvars compiled = Tirumurais = fifth Vedas – 12th century.** Age of Kamban = golden age of Tamil literature. Kannada literature also grew. Rashtrakuta, Chalukyaand Hoysala rulers patronized Kannada and Telugu. **Jain scholars Pampa, Ponna and Ranna = 3 gems of Kannada poetry.** Also wrote on themes of Ramayan and Mahabharat.

Delhi Sultanate [12th-14th centuries]

**Slave rule (Ilbari Turks, Mameluk Turks)**

Aibak succeeded Ghori in 1206. Yalduz, another slave of Ghori, succeeded him at Ghazni. Since Yalduz also claimed rule over Delhi, Aibak severed ties with him, causing Delhi Sultanate to develop independently instead of being dragged into central asian politics.

**Iltutmish** (1210-36) succeeded Aibak. Consolidated Turkish rule in Northern India. Marched to Lahore and also occupied Multan and Uchch when Khwarizmis took over Ghazni. Khwarizmis were later defeated by Mongols. Recovered Gwalior and Ranthambore.

**Raziya** (1236-39) succeeded Iltutmish. Her rule marked the struggle between monarchy and Turkish chiefs (chahalgani). She streamlined administration and sent expeditions to Ranthambore to control Rajputs. Faced rebellion from orthodox and conservative elements in the court and was captured. Married her captor. Was later killed by bandits.

**Balban** (1265) was a Turkish chief who had long struggled with monarchy, served as wazir to the then ruler and finally ascended in 1265. Sought to increase prestige and power of monarchy. Centralization. Important positions were only given to Turkish nobles and Indian muslims were excluded. He refused to share power with anyone and was determined to break the influence of chahalgani. Was a despot and followed blood and iron policy to maintain law and order. Reorganized military (diwan-i-arz) and insisted on sijada and paibos (prostration and kissing King’s feet). Died in 1286.

* Changez Khan destroyed Khwarizmis in 1220. Looted and plundered all cities in west asia, central asia. Killed women and children. Good craftsmen were incorporated into Mongol army. Due to this, all scholars and academicians migrated to India, then the last bastion for Islam.
* Mongols attacked Lahore in 1241 and captured it. Invested Multan in 1245 and forced Balban to march there. Balban used diplomacy to cede major portion of Punjab to Mongols in return for not attacking Delhi. But yearly expeditions were needed to ensure that Mongols complied.
* Il-Khan Mongol of Iran maintained good relations with Sultanate. However, Chagatai Mongols of East made attempt to conquer India and attacked Delhi. First attack by Iranian Mongols was repelled by Jalaluddin Khalji and the second was repelled by Alauddin Khalji. The latter now took steps to raise a large army.
* Mongols ceased to be a threat after 1306, until Timur reunited all the Mongols. Khaljis brought Lahore back into the kingdom.
* There were internal rebellions in the Sultanate as well. They were either by powerful chiefs in East (Bengal) or South, or by local muslims wanting posts within the court. After Iltutmish’s death, Bengal governors asserted their independence or submitted to Delhi depending on their convenience. Balban reasserted control over Bihar and Bengal, but not for long. His son set up an independent dynasty that ruled Bengal for 40 years.
* Turks also had to battle Katheriya rajputs across the Ganga and Chauhans in Rajasthan and Chalukyas of Gujarat.
* Establishment of strong monarchy, cessation of Mongol threat and consolidation in east and north led to Sultanate’s expansion in West and Deccan.

**Khaljis**

**Jalaluddin Khalji** (1290-96) rebelled against Balban’s incompetent successors and ascended the throne. Khaljis were soldiers in Balban’s army but were not given due recognition. He reasoned that majority of population was Hindu, so rule could not be Islamic. Believed that state should be based on the willing support of the governed. Allowed non-Turks to hold high offices.

**Alauddin Khalji** (1296-1316) used ruthlessness and repression to quell internal rebellion. He even gave harsh punishments to wives and children of the rebels and massacred the Mongols who had settled in Delhi. Framed a series of regulations for the nobles – no festivities or marriage alliances without his permission, banning of wine and intoxicants etc., making the nobles subservient. **A Hindu convert – Khusrau –** ascended the throne after Alauddin. Nizamuddin Auliya acknowledged Khusrau’s rule. Muslims of Delhi were no longer swayed by racial considerations and were accepting of anyone. This widened social base of the nobility.

**Tughlaqs**

**Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq** (1320-24) established a new dynasty after revolting against Khusrau and killing him.

**Muhammad bin Tughlaq** (1324-51) – see below.

**Firuz Shah Tughlaq** (1351-88) – see below.

Timur’s invasion of Delhi in 1398 marked the end of Tughlaq dynasty but other minor rulers ruled till 1412.

**Expansion, Reforms in and Disintegration of Delhi Sultanate**

**Expansion**

1. Dynasties of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Malwa were always at war. In Maratha region, Deogir was at war with Warangal in Telangana and Hoysalas in Karnataka. Hoysalas were at war with Pandyas in TN.

2. Turkish reasons wanted to conquer Gujarat because of fertile area and access to sea-trade due to western ports. Access to large amounts of gold and silver as well as access to good quality horses to counter rise of Mongols was the need for controlling Gujarat ports. Alauddin sent two generals to conquer Gujarat. They sacked Anhilwara, Jaisalmer and Somnath and collected large booty. Gujarat became a part of the empire, except South Gujarat.

3. Then came consolidation of Rajasthan. Successors of Prithviraj Chauhan ruled. Mongol soldiers of Khalji’s army rebelled and sought refuge with Chauhan king Hamirdeva. Khalji ordered Hamirdeva to kill or expel them. On refusal, he marched to Ranthambore. **Amir Khusrau went with him and has given a graphic description of the fort. Jauhar (women sacrificing themselves in funeral pyre) happened and men came out to fight. This is the first description of Jauhar in Persian. Dated 1301.**

4. Khalji invested Chittor - under Ratan Singh - in 1303. Rajput rulers were allowed to rule but had to pay regular tribute and obey orders.

5. Then came Deccan and South India. First campaign against Rai Karan, erstwhile ruler of Gujarat and second against Rai Ramachandra, ruler of Deogir. Malik Kafur led the second charge and was victorious. Alliance was forged with Rai Ramachandra. Two campaigns by kafur in South India b/w 1309-11. One against Warangal and second against Dwar Samudra and Mabar (K’tka) and Madurai (TN). Khusrau wrote about these campaigns and the Malwa campaign. Kafur was appointed **malik-naib (vice regent)** of the empire by Khalji. Within 15 years, all these territories were brought under direct administration of Delhi.

6. After death of Khalji, successive rulers also adopted forward policies. Territories of Sultanate reached upto Madurai by 1324. Last Hindu principality – Kampili in South K’taka – was annexed in 1328.

This extensive expansion created numerous administrative and financial problems. These were tackled through

**Reforms In the Sultanate**

1. **Alauddin’s policy of market control:** Tried for the first time in the known world. Controlled prices of all commodities. Set up three markets at Delhi – one for foodgrains, second for costly cloth and third for horses, slaves and cattle. Each market under control of officer = *shahna.*

Need to control prices because 1. To enjoy popularity among citizens. 2. Less and stable prices = enough food for large army. 3. Low prices of horses = increased efficiency of army. 4. **Barani** says major objective of market control = punishing Hindus who formed a majority of local traders that profited from increased foodgrain prices.

Khalji ordered that revenue of Ganga doab would be raised to half of produce and paid to state and not given as iqta to anyone. Supply chain was managed. Peasants were asked to pay in cash, they sold at low prices to *banjaras* who sold it at fixed prices in markets. All agents were registered and their families held responsible in case of violation of law.

Raising revenue in cash = paying soldiers in cash, being the first sultan to do so. Unclear if market control applied only to Delhi or to other cities as well.

**2. Land revenue administration:** First sultan to insist that revenue would be decided on basis of assessment of land under cultivation. Landlords (khuts/muqaddams) had to pay same taxes as others – like taxes on milch cattle, houses. Amils and other officials were given sufficient salaries, their accounts were strictly audited and severe punishment was given to ensure honesty.

**3. Muhammad bin Tughlaq’s reforms:** Paid a keen interest in agriculture. Well-versed in religion and philosophy and conversed with Jain saints like Jinaprabha Suri, in addition to muslim clerics. Was hasty and impatient. Termed “ill starred idealist”. Transferred capital from Delhi to Deogir (Daulatabad) in order to have a better control over south India. Caused lots of deaths and discontent and he could not control north India from Deogir. The experiment ultimately failed.

Several religious divines had settled in Deogir after this experiment. They spread the cultural, religious and social ideas of Turks to South India and caused a new process of cultural interaction.

TUghlaq introduced token currency. China’s Qublai Khan had successfully experimented with it earlier. MBT introduced a bronze coin equivalent to silver tanka. He couldn’t stop people from forging new coins, which resulted in devaluation of the currency. It had to be withdrawn. Failure of these two experiments led to wastage of money and reduction in sovereign’s prestige.

**Since early times, attempts had been made by Indian kings to secure the “scientific frontier” = Hindukush and Kandahar. This was needed because once invaders crossed the passes in Hindukush, it was easy for them to breach Indus and reach Delhi. A strong army at the scientific frontier would help in repelling the invaders.**

**MBT also recruited a large army to defend this frontier after Mongols invaded India and reached till Meerut.** Another expedition was launched in Kumaon Hills in Himalayas to counter Chinese excursions. Called the **Qarachil expedition.** Kangra hills also saw an expedition and were secured.

MBT faced rebellion from peasants of the doab. Reasons were faulty assessment of revenue and famine that lasted for 6 years. Relief efforts came too late. So he started reforms to rejuvenate agriculture. Established new deprtment = **diwan-i-amir-i-kohi**. Officials were placed in charge of blocks and tasked with providing loans to peasants and inducing them to produce superior crops such as wheat and grapes in place of barley and sugarcane. Scheme failed because of corruption.

MBT also faced problems with nobility. Non-turks were allowed since the time of Khaljis. MBT also included foreigners, hindus and Indian converted muslims into nobility. Descendants of earlier noble families resented it. Nobility consisted of divergent sections which did not have any cohesion or loyalty towards the sultan. Vast extent provided opportunities for rebellion.

**Disintegration of Sultanate**

Many rebellions in different parts of the empire – in Bengal, TN, Warangal, Kampili, Awadh, Gujarat and Sindh due ot spreading discontent among nobles regarding MBT’s policies. MBT rushed from place to place to quell these. Plague broke out in the army and almost 2/3rd perished. Meanwhile, **Harihar and Bukka**  **rebelled and set up the VIjaynagar Empire which soon embraced entire south India.**  **Some foreign nobles set up principalities near Daulatabad which expanded into the Bahmani empire.**

MBT died while quelling rebellions and was succeeded by **Firuz.** Made no effort to reassert sovereignty over South. Led two expeditions to Bengal and failed, resulting in loss of Bengal. Led campaign against Jajnagar (Orissa) and plundered it but did not annex it. Also led campaigns in Kangra hills and against rulers of Gujarat.

Faced with imminent breakup of Sultanate, he followed a policy of appeasement of the nobles, army and theologians. Decreed the iqtas to be made hereditary and abolished torturing of nobles in case of mismanagement of accounts. Extended heredity to army and paid soldiers by assignments of land revenue. To placate theologians, he persecuted sects that were considered heretical, banned practices considered unislamic. **Jizyah became a separate tax.** Brahmanas had to pay. Women, children and dependents were exempt.

Wall paintings on palace walls were erased (unislamic) but ordered Hindu religious works to be translated to Persian from Sanskrit. Abolished inhuman punishments like cutting of limbs. Set up hospitals for free treatment of the poor and ordered kotwals to make a list of unemployed people. Emphasized that state was not meant for awarding punishments and collecting taxes but was also a benevolent institution. Set up a PWD and built many canals, longest being 200 kms from Sutlej to Hansi, for water supply to several new towns – Hissar-Firuzah and Firuzabad.

Ordered that after attacking a palace, handsome boys should be sent to sultan as slaves. These were trained in handicrafts and sent to workshops (karkhanas) and made into soldiers completely dependent on the sultan. After his death, nobility and governors reasserted independence and the empire was further weakened by Timur’s invasion of Delhi in 1398. The invasion was for plunder and exposed the weaknesses due to absence of a strong state in Delhi. TImur took large amounts of gold, silver, jewels and also capable artisans to help him build his capital Samarqand.

**Government, economic and social life under SUltanate**

**Sultan**

Included Caliph in the khutba and pledged allegiance to him, but this was a moral position and not a legal one. Political, legal and military authority was vested in the sultan. Judges were appointed for dispensing justice and sultan acted as a court of appeal.

No clear law of succession developed because idea of primogeniture was not acceptable either to hindus or muslims. Military strength and loyalty of nobility were main factors in succession to the throne, and both could be bought. Khaljis built a new town called Siri after deposing Balban since they feared public opinion.

**Central Administration**

Definite system of admin emerged at the end of 13th century. Key figure = wazir. HE was earlier a military expert, but considered an epert in revenue affairs by 14th century. Auditor general (scrutinizing expenditure) and accountant general (inspecting income) worked under the wazir.

Diwani-i-arz = military department. Head = ariz-i-mamalik; not commander-in-chief but tasked with recruitment, equipping and paying the army. Setup for the first time by Balban.

Alauddin introduced *dagh* (branding) system so that poor quality horses could not be brought to the muster.

Diwan-i-risalat = department of religious matters, pious foundations and stipends to scholars. Head = chief sadr, who was also a leading qazi. Chief Qazi = Head of Dept. Of Justice. Qazi = dispensed civil law based on sharia. Criminal justice system depended on the ruler of the time.

Hindus were governed by their own personal laws dispensed by panchayats in the villages.

Diwan-i-insha = state correspondence department. Informal and formal communication between the king and other sovereigns as well as the king’s subordinates was handled through this division.

Barids = intelligence agents deployed around the kingdom. Nobleman with full confidence of the king would be appointed Chief Barid.

Household department = looked after comforts of sultan and the women, supervised royal workshops. Officer-in-charge = wakil-i-dar.

**Local Administration**

Turks divided territory into **iqtas** which were divided among **leading nobles = muqtis/walis. These tracts later became provinces = subas.** Muqtis maintained law and order and collected land revenue. Maintained army from that revenue and gave a portion to the king. With increasing power of sultan, muqtis were supervised more closely, accounts were audited and harsh punishments were meted out for malappropriation. Such harsh punishments were phased out by Firuz Shah Tughlaq.

**Subas (provinces) 🡪 Shiqs (~districts) 🡪 Parganas (~a group of 100 or 84 villages; called Chaurasi)**

Subas under muqtis, parganas under Amils. Village had khut (landowners) and muqaddam (headman). Accountant = patwari. Exact information on administration not available.

**Economic and Social Life:** Little is known but **Ibn-Battuta, a resident of Tangier (Africa) visited india in 14th century and stayed at MBT’s court for 8 years. Left behind a colourful account.** Soil was fertile and bore two, sometimes three, crops. Sesame, sugarcane and cotton formed the basis for industries like oil pressing, jiggery production, weaving etc.

**Peasants and Rural Gentry:** Khuts and muqaddams enjoyed a higher standard of life compared to other peasants. They were prosperous enough to ride costly horses and wear fine cloothes. Alauddin took stern action against them and curtailed their privileges.

Autonomous rajas or Hindu Rais enjoyed high standard of life.

**Trade, industry and Merchants:** Trade increased due to improvement in communication and establishment of currency based on silver tanka and copper dirham. Sultanate was a flourishing urban economy. Bengal, Cambay were famous for textiles, gold and silver. Sonargaon was famous for raw silk and muslin. **Paper manufacturing was introduced in India by Turks. Spinning wheel was introduced, as was the cotton carter’s bow (dhunia).**

Trading groups involved:

Coastal trade and trade b/w ports and north India = Marwaris and Gujaratis, most Jain. Muslim Bohras too.

Overland trade with central and west asia = Multanis (hindus) and Khurasanis (afghans, Iranians etc.)

Gujarati and Marwari merchants spent large sums for construction of temples. Lived lavish lifestyles and lived in manors.

Travel was risky due to robbers, dacoits and marauding tribes. Many sarais were there for comfort of travellers. MBT built a road from Peshawar to Sonargaon (Bengal) and also from Delhi to Daulatabad. Horse relays were used for delivering posts, fruits for the sultan etc.

Economic life quickened. Growth of metallurgical industries and metal crafts due to large scale use of armour etc. *Rahat* was improved and made it easier to lift water from deeper levels for irrigation. Improved mortar enabled Turks to erect larger buildings based on arch and dome.

**Sultan and Nobles:** Lived opulent lifestyle. Sultan gave numerous gifts to nobles during his birthday, navroz and annual coronation day. Robes consisted of cloth velvet and costly materials. Royal workshops manufactured goods for use of sultan. They also catered to haram = chamber containing queens, female relatives and women from various countries.

**Town Life:** Many towns grew arounf military garrisons. Government servants and clerks had to read and write. Since education was in the hands of muslim theologians = ulama, both of them shared identical views. Beggars formed a large mass and could create law and order problems.

Slaves and domestic servants formed a sizeable proportion of population. Positions of different types of slaves has been discussed in Hindu shastras. Slave markets existed in India as well as West Asia. They were used for personal service, as artisans or as some skilled labourers. Slaves were better off than domestic seevants since the masters were obliged to provide food and shelter to the former. Slaves were allowed to marry and own personal property.

Medieval society contained many inequalities.

**Caste, social manners and customs:** No change. Brahmanas dominated, but were allowed to engage in agriculture since officiating at sacrifices did not generate enough income. Shudras were supposed to serve other castes but allowed to carry out any occupation except dealing in liquor and meat. Forbidden to listen to or recite Vedas, but not Puranas. Severest restrictions placed on mingling with chandalas or outcastes.

Little change in position of women. Widow remarriage prohibited. Annulment allowed in special circumstances. Early marriage for girls continued. Sati was prevalent in different regions of the country, but with permission of Sultan. Property rights of women improved under Hindu law.

Practice of *Purdah* became widespread among upper class women, both Hindu and Muslim. This may have been done to prevent capture of women by invaders. Most important reason was social – purdah signified upper class.

Muslim society remained divided into racial and ethnic groups. Turks, Iranians, Afghanis and Indian muslims did not inter-marry. Hindu and muslim upper classes did not interact much due to superiority of latter and restrictions on intermarrying and interdining. But there was no closure of interaction, several opportunities were there since hindus assistants were hired by muslim nobles and vice versa. Some tensions were created from time to time and this slowed down the process of mutual understanding and cultural assimilation.

**Nature of State:** Turkish state was militaristic and aristocratic. Formally Islamic. Rulers did not violate Islamic law and granted places of importance to Islamic divines and granted rent-free revenue generating lands to them. However, the divines were not allowed to hold sway over State’s policies. Sultans had to supplement Muslim law with their own regulations (*zawabit*). So Barani refused to acknowledge State as Islamic but insisted that it was based on secular considerations (*jahandari*).

Hindus were regarded as protected people (*zimmis*) who accepted muslim rule and agreed to pay Jizyah. Actually a tax in lieu of military service and levied according to one’s capacity. Women, children, dependents and initially, even Brahmanas were exempt. Collected along with land revenue and indistinguishable from it.

Later, Firuz made Jizyah a separate tax and levied it on brahmanas. Could not be attributed as a tool for conversion to Islam. **Medieval states were not based on the idea of equality, but on the notion of privileges.**

**Religious Freedom:** In erly phase of conquest, many Hindu temples were sacked and plundered and religious justification given for it. Many temples were converted into mosques. Examples = Quwwat-ul-islam mosque near Qutab Minar was a Vishnu temple. Inner sanctums were pulled down and a screen of arches containing Quranic verses was put up.

Turks built new mosques but no new temples were built because sharia prohibited new places of worship in opposition to Islam. Repair of old temples was allowed since buildings could not last forever. SO temples could be erected in villages and private homes, where there was no Islam. This was revoked in war times. Policy of broad tolerance was maintained despite protests from orthodox theology.

Simultanously, there were instances of conversion of muslims to Hinduism. Chaitanya converted several muslims even though the theology considered apostasy to be a capital punishment. Conversions were not done by sword. Rulers realied Hindu faith was too strong to be destroyed by force. Conversions to Islam were done in hopes of political gain or social improvement. Saintly character of sufi saints created a receptive climate for islam. Discrimination to lower castes of hinduism did not result in conversions to islam. Conversions were thus due to personal, political and regional factors (Punjab, Bengal etc.)

Vijayanagar, Bahmanids and Advent of Portugese [1350-1565]

Vijaynagar and Bahmani kingdoms dominated South of Vindhyas for more than 200 years.

**Vijayanagar kingdom**

Harihara and Bukka. Feudatories of Kakatiyas of Warangal and later ministers in kingdom of Kampili (K’taka). Kampili was overrun by MBT, they were captured, converted and appointed to quell rebellions there.

Since Muslim governor of Madurai, Hoysala ruler of Mysore and ruler of Warangal had already declared independence from Sultanate, H&B got readmitted to Hinduism by their guru Vidyaranya, and established the capital at Vijaynagar In 1336.

Madurai and Hoysalas warred and the latter lost. Hoysala kingdom passed into the hands of Vijaynagar rulers by 1346. Was kind of a cooperative commonwealth at first. Bukka succeeded Harihara in 1356 and ruled till 1377. Warred a lot with Madurai, ultimately removing it by 1377. Then the entire Vijayanagar empire extended till Rameshwaram, including TN as well as Chera (Kerala) country. Faced enemy in the form of Bahmani kingdom in the north.

**Bahmani kingdom**

Founded in 1347. Alaudin Hasan, an Afghan adventurer (Hasan Gangu). Assumed title of Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah. Firuz Shah Bahmani was the most prolific ruler.

**Common history:**

Interests of Vijayanagar and Bahmanids clashed in three areas: **Tungabhadra doab, KG delta and MArathwada country.** Doab because of wealth and economic resources, basin because of fertile delta, ports and Maratha because of access to Konkan region and ports, especially for import of good quality of horses. Military conflicts between the two kingdoms continued till they existed.

In 1367, Bukka I killed Bahmani garrison. In response, Bahmani sultan crossed doab, entered Vijayanagar and defeated Bukka I. **There was use of artillery for the first time in this war. Vijayanagar faced setbacks due to superior Bahman artillery and efficient cavalry.** Ultimately, there was a stalemate and original territories were restored. Treaty also laid out that helpless peasants and women would not be harmed in the future and quarrel would be minimized, seeing as they were bound to be neighbours for the foreseeable future.

Vijayanagar made eastward expansion under Harihara II (1377-1406) – Reddis on upper reaches of delta and Kingdom of Warangal. Orissan kings and Bahmanids were also interested in Warangal. Warangal had signed an alliance with Bahmanids that lasted 50 years and prevented Vijayanagar from capturing the doab or putting up a defence of the region. However, Harihara II wrestled Belgaum and Goa from Bahmanids and sent an envoy to SL.

Was succeeded by Deva Raya I (1404-22) who was defeated by Bahmani king Firuz Shah (not Tughlaq). Married his daughter to Firuz and ceded Bankapur in the doab. Not the first political marriage. Ruler of Kherla in GOndwana had also married his daughter to Firuz.

Confusion over Reddis – alliance with Warangal to partition Reddis between them. Warangal’s defection changed balance of power. Deva Raya I defeated Firuz and annexed territory up to mouth of Krishna river. Built dams across Tungabhadra and Haridra for irrigation purposes.

Deva Raya II ascended in 1425. Till 1446. Greatest ruler of the dynasty. Inducted muslims in the army and asked hindu soldiers to learn archery from them in order to combat superior Bahmanid archers. Crossed doab to capture lost territories but failed. **Portugese writer Nuniz** tells that kings of Quilon, SL, Pulicat, Pegu and Tenasserim paid tribute to Deva Raya II.

Vijayanagar = most powerful and wealthy state in south during first half of 15th century. **Nicolo Conti visited during Deva Raya I and Abdur Razzaq during Deva Raya II.** Kings of Vijayanagar were very wealthy and hoarded bullion within the palace, which was a common feature.

Firuz Shah Bahmani ascended in 1397. Till 1422. Well acquainted with religion and fond of natural sciences. Good calligraphist and poet. Was determined to make Deccan the cultural centre of India. Decline of Sultanate caused many learned men to migrate to Deccan. Inducted Hindus into Bahmani administration on a large scale.

Started expansion towards Berar and Kherla. Then happened the Deva Raya I episode mentioned earlier. Had to abdicate in favour of Wali (saint) Ahmad Shah I. Invaded Warangal in revenge of defection, defeated and annexed it. Shifted capital from Gulbarga to Bidar.

Loss of Warangal to Bahmani kingdom changed balance of power in its favour. Kingdom expanded **and reached territorial limits under PMship of Mahmud Gawan,** who was earlier the Chief of merchants = Malik-ul-Tujjar. Overran Dabhol and Goa, causing increased trade for the empire.

Gawan made efforts to secure northern frontiers of the empire. Was aided by Gujarat ruler while defeating Mahmud Khalji of Malwa over Berar. Pattern of struggle in south india did not allow divisions along political lines. Strategic ad political considerations over trade and commerce were more important. Struggles of North and South were not in isolation. Orissan kings made inroads to as far as Madurai once.

Gawan carried out internal reforms. Divided kingdoms into eight tarafs (provinces), each governed by a tarafdar. Salries were paid in cash or by assigning jagir. A tract of land in each province was set aside for expenses of the sultan (khalisa). Set up a magnificent madrasa at Bidar where many scholars came and stayed.

Bahmani kingdom faced strife among nobles. Were divided into old-comers and new-comers or Deccanis and Afaqis (gharibs). Gawan tried to conciliate with Deccanis but failed and was killed in 1482. Soon, Bahmani kingdom split into five principalities: **Golconda, Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Berar and Bidar.** Bahmani kingdom acted as a cultural bridge between north and south.

Due to absence of principle of primogeniture, civil war was fought for the throne. Authority of king declined to Krnataka and western Andhra. Throne was usurped by **Saluva**, who restored internal law and order and founded a new dynasty. **Tuluva synasty was founded by Krishna Deva. Krishna Deva Raya (KDR)** was the greatest figure of this dynasty. He also had to contend with successor states of Bahmani kingdom and Orissa.

Orissa was forced to cede territories upto river Krishna to KDR who then turned attention to doab. Bijapur and Orissa aligned against KDR but the entire alliance was defeated by KDR in 1520 and he occupied Belgaum and Bijapur, emerging as the strongest military power in the south.

These internal feuds led to a neglect with regards to arrival of portugese. KDR did not pay attention to development of navy, unlike Cholas.

**Administration and Cultural Life**

KDR built new town near Vijayanagar. Dug an enormous tank for irrigation purposes. Was a gifted scholar of Telugu and Sanskrit. **Marked a new era in telugu literature where imitation of Sanskrit works gave place to independent works.** Patronage was extended to telugu, kannada and tamil poets. Was broadly tolerant and administered efficient justice.

Sadashiv Ray ascended and reigned till 1567. Real power lay with Rama Raja who entered into a commercial treaty with Portugese and stopped horse supply to Bijapur and thereby defeated them along with Golconda and Ahmadnagar. **Later, these three aligned and defeated Vijaynagar near Bannihatti in 1565.** This marked the end of Vijayanagar empire.

Concept of kingship was high amongst Vijayanagar rulers. King was advised by CoM.

Rajyas or mandalam (provinces) 🡪 nadu (district) 🡪 sthala (sub-district) 🡪 grama (village).

Chola tradition of self government was weakened by Vijayanagar. Princes were appointed governors, and later vassals. Governors enjoyed large autonomy and maintained own armies. Were allowed to issue own coins of small denomination. Had the right to impose taxes. Vijayanagar was more of a confederacy than a centralized empire. Many areas were under the control of subordinate rulers.

Amarams (territories) with fixed revenue were granted to military chiefs (palaiyagars, palegars, nayaks) who had to maintain a fixed number of foot soldiers, horses and elephants and oay a fixed amount to centre. They became powerful, asserted independence (Tanjore, Madurai) and contributed to the downfall of the empire.

No idea about economic life of peasants under Vijayanagar emoire, but it must’ve remained more or less the same. Thatched huts, little clothes above the waist. Upper class people wore costly shoes but did not cover themselves above the waist. All classes of people wore ornaments. 1/3rd of *kuruvai* (a type of rice) during winter, 1/4th of sesame, ragi, horsegram. 1/6th of millet and dry-land crops.

Various other taxes such as property tax, professional tax, military contribution, marriage tax etc. Nikitin (16th century traveller) speaks of large population and prevalence of inequality. Urban life and trade grew. Temples were very large and took part in both internal and external trade.

**Advent of Portugese**

**Vasco da Gama landed at Calicut in 1498.** Factors which bought portugese to India:

1. Expansion of European economy and land under cultivation, which led to rise of cities and increase in trade.

2. Increase in prosperity and thus the demand for silk from China and spices and drugs from India and SE Asia. Pepper was needed to make meat palatable and was brought overland through Levant and Egypt. With the rise of Ottoman Turks, this route proved expensive due to monopolization of the transit route.

3. Growth and eastern expansion of Turkish navy and turning of Mediterranean into a Turkish lake alarmed the Europeans. Spain and Portugal had to increase their navies in response to this threat.

4. There arose a spirit of adventure fuelled by Renaissance, and led to search for new land and exploration of hitherto unknown regions. Thus, Genoese Columbus discovered US. Portugese ruler Dom Henrique = Henry The Navigator was excited about these developments.

5. Henry sent ships to discover India in order to: 1. Oust the Arabs and European rivals from rich Eastern trade and 2. Counterpoise the growing power of Turks by converting the heathens of Africa and Asia to Christianity.

6. In 1483, Batholomew Diaz rounded the Cape of Good Hope and laid the basis of direct trade link between Europe and India. Long voyages were made possible by navigation compass and astrolabe.

Zamorin allowed Vasco to take peppers etc. On his ships, which were later sold at high price in Portugal. Reason for slow growth of trade was the monopoly exercised by Portugese government. Not to be left behind, sultan of Egypt sent a fleet to India, which was subsequently routed by Portugese.

Soon after ,Albuquerque was made governor of eastern Portugese possessions and embarked upon a policy of dominating oriental commerce by setting up ports at strategic locations in Asia and Africa. **Initiated the policy by capturing Goa from Bijapur in 1510.** Sacked Bijapuri ports of Danda-Rajouri and Dabhol, set up forts at Colombo, Achin (Sumatra), Malacca port, Socotra (mouth of red sea) and Ormuz (entry into Persian gulf).

Faced external challenge from Turks, who after conquering western Europe till Vienna in 1529, had turned their attention to naval warfare. Sultan of Gujarat sent an embassy to Ottoman ruler who agreed to fight the Portugese and subsequently removed them from the Red Sea. Two Turks were made governors of Surat and Diu. Portugese attacked these places and were defeated, and set up their fort at Chaul, lower down the coast.

Then came the internal threat from Mughals as HUmayun attacked Gujarat. Bahadur Shah granted island of Bassein to Portugese in return for an alliance against Mughals. A Portugese fort was allowed at Diu. Bahadur Shah again appealed to Ottoman sultan for help but was killed in 1536 before the Turks mounted a naval offensive with a large navy against the Portugese at Diu. This continued for two decades till 1556, when Turks and Portugese agreed to share the spice trade and not to quarrel in the Arab seas.

**Evaluation:** Portugese were not able to change Asian trade networks. Gujaratis and Arabs dominated the lucrative trade in textiles, rice and sugar. They were not even able to monopoliz pepper trade since mughals and safavids jointly protected land trade routes and a new sea route via Achin and Lakshwadeep to Red Sea was arranged, where Portugese could not operate.

Portugese were able to adversely affect Malabar trade and sea trade from Bengal. They opened up India’s trade with Japan, from which copper and silver were obtained. They could not act as a bridge for transmitting European renaissance science and tech to India, mainly because they themselves were not affected and became against it later on due to Catholic influence (Jesuits). Introduced potato, tobacco from central America to India.

Defeat of Vijayanagar at Bannihatti in1565 emboldened Deccani states to stand against Portugese. However, they were unsuccessful and Portugese might prevailed near Calicut and Malabar coast.

North India [1400-1525]

Timur’s invasion in 1398 led to disintegration of Sultanate. Gujarat, Malwa, Jaunpur, Deccan states, Bengal, Sindh and Multan became independent, as did the states of Rajputana.

Balance of power emerged. Gujarat and Malwa checked each other in the west, Bengal was checked by Orissa (Gajapati rulers) and Jaunpur (East UP). Lodis in Delhi warred with Jaunpur for custody of Ganga-Jamuna valley. They ultimately succeeded. Expanded towards Rajasthan and Malwa.Strufgfgle for mastery over malwa was the cockpit for struggle over North India. **Rana Sanga invited Babur to war with Lodis, thinking that this would make Mewar the strongest power in the field.**

**Bengal, Assam and Orissa:** Bengal had been more or less independent of Delhi because of its distance, climate and access via waterways. After Shamsuddin Ilyas Khan, a noble of MBT ascended the throne and expanded his empire till Assam and Banaras, Firuz Tughlaq had to battle him. A treaty of friendship was concluded. Firuz again attacked after death of Ilyas, but failed. Then Bengal was left alone for 200 years till 1538, when Mughals established their power and Sher Shah overran Bengal.

Azam Shah, famous Bengali ruler, had relations with Persian poet Hafiz of Shiraz, as well as friendly relations with the Chinese. Buddhism had not completely died out in Bengal till then. Chittagong port became a flourishing port for trade with China. There was a brief spell of Hindu rule under Raja Ganesh. His sons preferred to rule as muslims. These sultans patronized great men and Bengali language. Also showed respect to Vaishnavite saint Chaitanya. Maladhar Basu = composer of Sri-Krishna-Vijaya.

Two kingdoms in Assam: Kamata (Kamrup) in west and Ahom in the east. Latter were a mongoloid tribe from northern Burma and had established a powerful kingdom in 13th century, becoming Hinduized with time. They warred with each other and occasionally listed the help of Bengali muslim rulers to further their objectives. Suhungmung = greatest Ahom ruler who adopted the name of Svarga Narayana. **Vaishnavite reformer Shankaradev spread Vaishnavism in the area during this time.**

**Orissa** had been plundered time and again by Tughlaqs and Ilyas Khan (Bengal). Gajapati dynasty was established and marks a brilliant phase in Orissa history. Extended rule towards Karnataka and conflicted with Reddis, Vijayanagar and Bahmanids. Could not hold on for a long time. Had not engaged Bengal rulers because of the latter’s strength, but conflicts arose from time to time.

**Gujarat, Malwa and Mewar:**

Gujarat was one of the richest provinces of Sultanate due to excellence in handicrafts and flourishing seaports. After Timur’s invasion, Delhi and Malwa became independent for all purposes. Real founder of kingdom of Gujarat = Ahmad Shah I (1411-43). Brought nobility under control, settled administration and expanded and consolidated the kingdom. Shifted the capital from Patan to Ahmedabad.

He built magnificent palaces, bazaars and mosques. Drrew on architectural tradition of Jains and devised a style different from Delhi. **Features:** Slender turrets, exquisite stone carving, highly ornate brackets. Jama masjid and Teen darwaza.

Ahmad Shah attacked SAurashtra and Sidhpur, destroyed many temples and imposed jizyah on Gujaratis for the first time. Inducted Hindus into administration. Very strict regarding justice. Sunordinated Idar, Jhalawar, Bundi, Dungarpur etc.

Gujarat and Malwa were always at loggerheads and each gave support mutinies in the other. This restricted them from playing a major role in North Indian politics.

Mahmud Begarha (1459-1511) captured two powerful forts of Girnar and Champaner. Hence the “Begarha”. Girnar was annexed to suitably administer Saurashtra and as a base of operations against Sindh. After annexation, Raja of Girnar converted to Islam, a new city was founded on foothills, called Mustafabad and became the second capital of Gujarat. Then Mahmud sacked Dwarka because it harboured pirates + to raze hindu temples.

Begarha annexed Champaner to bring Khandesh and Malwa under control. Formed a city Muhammadabad. Jama masjid there incorporated various elements of Jain architecture. Joined hands with Egyptians to heck Portugese power but failed.

Trade and commerce prospered during Begarha. Sarais and inns were built. Law and order prevailed. Many works were translated from Arabic to Persian. Court poet = Udayaraja who wrote in Sanskrit. Gujarat reached maximum limit during this period; strong enough to challenge Humayun in Delhi.

Malwa situated on high plateau between Narmada and Tapi. Commanded trunk routes b/w North and South India. Strong Malwa proved a barrier for ambitions of all neighbouring rulers. Capital was shifted from Dhar to Mandu in 15th century. Many buildings built. **Unlike Gujarat architecture, Mandu architecture was massive and made on a lofty plinth. Large scale use of coloured and glazed tiles. Jama masjid, Hnidola Mahal, Jahaz Mahal.**

Hushang Shah was tolerant, allowed building of temples and allowed Rajputs to settle in Malwa. Then Mahmud Khalji (1436-39) destroyed many temples during wars with Rana Kumbha.

Chauhans of Rajputanaa were decimated by Alauddni Khalji. Several states arose out of Rajputana – Mewar, Marwar (founded 1465 with capital at Jodhpur), Nagaur. Rana Kumbha (Mewar) conquered Bundi, Dungarpur etc. Battled Marwar’s Rathores on one side and Khalji on the other. Wasa learned man and builder. Art of stone-cutting, sculpture was at a high level.

Kumbha >> Uda >> fratricidal conflict >> Rana Sanga (1508). By this time, Malwa had disintegrated. Sanga captured it. Ibrahim Lodi ws alarmed and marched towards Mewar but was defeated by Sanga. Meanwhile, Babur was knocking on India’s doors, so a decisive conflict was inevitable.

**North-West and North India:**

After Timur’s invasion, throne of Delhi had been shattered. Malik Sawar = Malik-us-sharq (Lord of the East) wa the first to assert independence. His successors = Sharqis. Capital = Jaunpur. Build many buildings distinct from Delhi style with their lofty gates and huge arches. Sharqis were great patrons of learning and made Jaunpur “Shiraz of the East”. Malik Jaisi = author of Hindi work Padmavat lived here.

Sharqis prevented Bengal from overrunning Delhi after disintegration of Sultanate. Commanded empire from Aligarh-Darbhanga-Nepal boundary-Bundelkhand. Failed to control Delhi and were defeated by Bahlol Lodi in 1484. Established a cultural tradition that lasted longer.

Saiyid dynasty ws established in Delhi. Afghan sardars established in Punjab. Bahlol Lodi was one such sardar. Controlled whole of Punjab. Soon captured Delhi after assisting the ruler in defeating attack by Malwa. Bahlol was crowned in 1451 and Saiyid dynasty ended and Afghan Lodi dynasty begun.

Bahlol Lodi >> Sikandar Lodi >> Ibrahim Lodi

Bahlol wasted a lot of time and evergy subjugating Sharqis. Wanted more men and power. Asked Afghans of Roh to come and settle. Many afghans came to India and changed the social fabric. Afghans ruled Malwa and occupied important positions in Bahmani kingdom also.

Sikandar Lodi (1489-1517) was a contemporary of Mahmud Begarha and Rana Sanga and prepared for conflict with them. Tried to control the afghan nobles who, traditionally, believed in tribal independence. Idea pf partition of empire among sons prevailed among the Afghans.

Sikandar laid emphasis on efficient admin, law, and justice. Commodity prices were low, octroi was abolished and a new unit of measurement of a yard = gazz-i-Sikandari. Considered orthodox and bigot. Reimposed jizyah and killed Brahmanas for admitting that Hindu and Muslim texts were equally sacred. Destroyed a few temples like Nagarkot.

Sikandar gave grants to scholars and this attracted many people from Afghanistan and Iran. Many works were translated from Sanskrit to Persian. Cultural rapproachment b/w Hindus and Muslims continued. Expanded till Gwalior. Selected Agra as site for second capital. Was interested in Nagaur and a conflict between Lodi and Sanga was imminent. Babur intervened (was called by Sanga to help him with Lodis, I think).

**Kashmir:**

Was a forbidden kingdom for long. Shaivism was practised. Entry forbidden to people not known to the nobles, even Hindus. Hindu rule ended in middle of 14th century. Mongol Dalucha plundered the valley, slaughtered men and sold women and children to cental asia. Sikandar Shah was the king and he did forceful conversions to Islam and destroyed all temples. 100 years after the invasion, Zainul Abidin ascended the throne. Changed the degenerative trends of Sikandar. Followed tolerance.

There had been continuous influx from Muslims via Baramulla. Sufis called Rishis arose (Hinduism + Islam). Cow slaughter and jizyah were abolished. Abidin ordered Mahabharat and Kalhana’s Rajtarangini translated to Persian. Sultan fostered many crafts in Kashir like stone cutting, polishing, gold beating, shawl making. Developed agricultureand built dams. Built Zaina Lanka – an artificial island in Wular lake, containing his palace and mosque. Abidin called “Bud Shah” by Kashmiris till present. Married daughters of Jammu kings and unified the Kashmiri kingdom. Conquered Baltistan (Tibbat-i-khurd).

Cultural Developments in India from 13th to 15th centuries

Turks coming to India led to widespread changes in art, culture, practices etc in all aspects. Syncretic culture evolved over time, but not without a fair share of strife and unrest among different religions.

**Architecture:**

Converted temples into mosques. Garbhagriha were destroyed and elaborately carved arches were constructed in front of the main room. **Human and animal figures were not used as they were considered unislamic.** Scrolls of flowers and verses of Quran were intertwined in artistic manner.

Turks used indigenous craftsmen, used arch and dome on a wide scale. Neither arch nor dome were Turkish or Muslim invention. Arabs borrowed from Rome through Byzantine empire, developed them and made their own. Advantages of arch and dome: Provided a pleasing skyline. Dispensed with the need for a large number of pillars to support the roof. Enabled construction of large halls with a clear view.

Strong cement was needed. Turks used strong and light mortar. Arch and dome were known to Indians earlier but not used widely. Turks used both arch and dome and slab and beam method in building.

Geometrical and floral designs with quranic verses used. Arabic script became a work of art. Hindu motifs like bell motif, lotus, swastika used. Red sandstone, yellow sandstone, marble used.All these techniques = Arabesque.

Iltutmish built Qutub minar dedicated to Sufi saint Qutab-ud-din Bakhtiyar Kaki. Had ribbed effect, red and white sandstone, marbles in panels and top stages. Alauddin built capital at Siri, added an entrance door to Qutab minar, called Alai Darwaza. This had a dome built on scientific lines.

Ghiyasuddin and Muhammad Tughlaq built huge palaces in Tughlaqabad. Yamuna was blocked by building a huge artificial lake around it. Beauty of Ghiyasuddin’s tomb was heightened by marble dome. Feature of Tughlaq architecture = sloping walls called “batter” give strength and solidity to the building. Second feature = deliberate attempt to combine principles of arch, lintel and beam in buildings. Tughlaq used cheaper greystone instead of costly red sandstone. Had minimum decoration but Lotus found in all buildings of Firuz.

Lodis developed independent style of architecture further. Arch and lintels are used. Balconies, kiosks of Gujarati style are used. Lodis built on a high platform, giving an image of magnificence and better skylines. Some tombs in middle of gardens = Lodi garden.

These new styles were modified by different regional kingdoms and adopted. Building activity and features were adopted by Mughals later on.

**Religion (Sufism, Bhakti, Vaishnavism):**

Al-Biruni = kitab – ul – Hind; familiarized learned sections of West Asia about Hindu beliefs.

Ground work for Sufism was laid by intermingling of Hindu and Islamic beliefs. Islamic philosophy was influenced by Indian Greek ideas in formative phase. In Sufism, ritual and yogi practices were drawn from Hinduism but basic ideological structure remained Islamic.

10th century = rise of Turks, end of domination of rationalist or **Mutazila** philosophy, rise of orthodox schools based on Quran and Hadis and rise of Sufi mystic orders. Four schools of Islamic law founded by traditionalists – Hanafiyya, Malikiyya, Shafiyya, Hanbaliyya. Last being the most conservative and the first being the most liberal. Hanafi was adopted by eastern Turks who came to India.

Sufis were disgusted with vulgar display of wealth and had nothing to do with state. Rabia and Mansur bin Hallaj emphasized on love as the bond between God and individual soul. Al-Ghazzali tried to reconcile mysticism with orthodoxy. Stressed that revealed word of Quran was necessary for a mystic.

Divided into 2 orders and 12 silsilahs. Each led by a prominent mystic who lived in a khanqah (hospice) with his disciples. Pir-muridi link between teacher and disciples was vital. Every pir nominated a successor or wali.

Penance, fasting, holding breaths etc. Traced back to Hindu and Buddhist influence. Buddhism was prevalent in Central Asia long before Islam so Sufis may have imbibed its traditions before they came to India.

2 orders = Ba-sharah (followers of Sharia) and Be-sharah ( not bound by Sharia).

Of Ba-sharah, two gained prominence in India: Chishti and Suharwardi silsilahs.

Chishti = by Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti (b. 1235), came to India, settled in Ajmer, fame rose, Bakhtiyar Kaki was a disciple, some verses found mention in Adi Granth. Famous chishti saints = Nizamuddin Auliya and Nasiruddin Chirag-i-Delhi. Mingled freely with lower classes, lived simple austere lifestyles, conversed in Hindi, did not convert, adopted musical recitations called Sama to create a mood for nearness to God.

Suharwadis were confined to Punjab and Multan. Did not lead austere lives, accepted offices of state, occupied important posts. Well known = Shaikh Shihabuddin Suharwadi and Hamid-ud-din-Nagori.

Bhakti movement had been around before Turks. Bhakti tradition can be traced back to Vedas but started getting emphasized only after growing popularity of Buddhism. In early centuries, Buddha was worshipped as “Avalokiteshwara” or “the gracious one” form by Mahayana followers. Vishnu started to be worshipped and Ramayan and Mahabharat were re-written. Bhakti, Jnana an Karma were recognized as accepted roads to salvation.

Development of Bhakti = in south India between 7th and 12th centuries. Shiva = Nayanars (nayan = eye, shiva = third eye) and Vishnu = AlVars. They disregarded austerity and preached devotion to god as means of salvation. Disregarded rigidities of caste system. Preached using local languages. This last point led to a very delayed transmission of tradition to North India.

Saints who transmitted this ideas to north = Namdev (MH, tailor turned bandit turned saint, 1350 onwards). Ramananda = worshipped Rama, lived at Banaras, taught to all varnas, did not believe in segregation, allowed common meals, disciples included Ravidas (cobbler), Kabir (weaver), Sena (barber), Sadhna ( butcher).

Nathpanthi movement = challenged superiority of Brahmanas and caste system. Founded by Matsyendranath and forwarded by Gorakhnath. Followed Guru-shishya parampara, Gorakhpur UP is hub, aim was liberation during life-time, 9 saints called Navnaths worshipped collectively as well as individually, contains several sub-sects, two individuals revered in Tibetan Buddhism as Mahasiddhas.

These movements resonated with the essence of Sufism and ideas of equality and brotherhood.People wanted a new religion which could give them reason and emotion. SO Bhakti became popular.

Kabir (15th century) was critical of existing social order and preached Hindu Muslim unity. Bron in Hindu household and brought up by Muslim weaver family. Denounced idol worship, pilgrimages, bathing in holy rivers and namaz. Neither asceticism nor book knowledge important for true knowledge. Denounced caste system, untouchability and emphasized the fundamental unity of man. He was NOT a social reformer and believed in reformation of the individual under the guidance of a true guru.

Guru Nanak (b. 1469) born in Talwandi (Nankana sahib) on banks of Ravi. Sang hymns with strined instrument Rabab. Attendant – mardana. Toured SL, Mecca Medina and gained wide fame. Emphasized one god and purity of character and conduct as precondition for approaching god. Denounced idol worship, pilgrimage, caste system. Advocated middle path of spirituality + duties of householder. Kabir did the same. Nanak wanted to bridge ifferences b/w hindus and muslims.

Largely the religions remained unchanged but these two garnered sizeable followers: the former known as Sikhs and latter as Kabiirpanthis. Religious ideas of Akbar reflected the fundamental teaching of these two. Orthodox elements did not relent. Struggle between liberal, non-sectarian trends and orthodox, traditional trends was at the heart of religious struggles of 16th-18th centuries.

Bhakti movement in North India developed around Ram and Krishna. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu founded Gauda Vaishnavism and is an important proponent of the Vaishnavite movement. Born in WB, he became a god-intoxicated devotee after being inculcated into the cult of Krishna at Gaya. He travelled around India for revival of Krishna cult. Popularized ‘kirthan’ – musical gatherings. Acc. To him, worship = love+devotion+song+dance which creates a sense of ecstasy. Called god “Hari”. Mostly remained in Bengal and Orissa.

Others = Narsinha Mehta – Gujarat, Meerabai – Rajasthan, Surdas (blind) – western UP. All remained within broad framework of Hinduism. Philosophical belief = Vedantic monism that emphasized that god and created world were one. Vallabh, a Tailang Brahman, influenced them the most. Approach of these saint-poets = humanistic. Unable to get rid of caste system.

Monistic ideas of Arab philosopher Ibn-i-Arabi became popular in India in 15th century. He denounced orthodox beliefs and insisted that all religions were one. His **Doctrine of Unity in Being** is called Tauhid-i-Wajudi. This became the main basis of Sufi thought before the advent of Akbar. Sufis were interested in Sanskrit and gained more influence from Hindi songs of these saints than from Persian poetry. Malik Muhammad Jaisi composed in Hindi. Abdul Wahid Belgrami wrote Haqaiq-i-Hindi to explain Hindu words (Murli, Gopis, Krishna etc.) in Sufi mystic terms.

Thus, during 15th and 16th century, Bhakti and Sufi saints worked out a common platform to unite different people, which was the essential background to ideas of Akbar and his concept of **tauhid** or unity of all religions.

**Literature and Fine Arts:**

Sanskrit continued to be the vehicle for higher thought and a medium of literature. Works of Advaita philosophy by Ramanuj, Madhava and Vallabh continued to be written in Sanskrit. The ideas spead by a network of specialized schools and colleges in different parts of the country.

Works in the fields of poetry, drama, fiction, medicine, astronomy, music continued to be written. Many dharmashastras between 12th and 16th centuries. **Vijnaneshwar’s Mitakshara -**  one of the two principal Hindu schools of law was written after 12th century. Chandeshwar of Bihar was a famous commentator. Most works written in south, followed by Bengal, Mithila, and western India. Jains also contributed to Sanskrit, the most eminent being Hemachandra Suri. **There was insularity of outlook in that major Sanskrit works were converted to Persian but no important Persian work was converted to Sanskrit.** Much of the writing of this period lacks originality and fresh insight.

Most Islamic literature = Arabic, language of prophet. Turks influenced by Persian language and Arabic was confined to few literary circles in India. Fatwa-i-alamgiri = digest of laws – prepared during Aurangzeb’s reign by translating from Arabic. Persian poets Firdausi and Sadi composed b/w 10th and 14th centuries. Lahore = first centre for emergence of Persian language in the subcontinent. Most notable = Amir Khusrau (b. 1252). Poems show love for India and historical romances. Created a new style of Persian = sabaq-i-hindi or Style of India. Khaliq Bari is a Hindi work attributed to him but written by someone of same name later on. Also took part in Sama prganized by Nizamuddin Auliya. Gave up his life on hearing of death of Nizamuddin (in 1325).

Famous historians = Ziauddin Barani, Afif and Isami. India developed close cultural cononection with Central asia and Iran. Sanskrit and Persian = link language for politics, religion and philosophy. Zia Nakshabi translated Sanskrit stories into Persian = Tutinama and Kok Shastra (treatise on sexology). Zain-ul-Abidin (of Kashmir, remember?) got Mahabharat and Rajatarangini translated into Persian. Medicine and music works were also translated.

High quality work produced in regional languages. Reason was decline of Brahmanism = decline of Sanskrit among common populace. Rise of Bhakti tradition = rise of works in common language. Early saints fashioned these languages for literary purposes. Many regional kingdoms used regional languages for administrative purposes also. Telugu lit. Developed under patronage of Vijaynagar rulers, Marathi was used in Bahmani kingdom. Nusrat Shah had Mahabharat and Ramayan translated to Bengali. Persian forms like “masnavi” were popularized by Sufi saints in UP.

Turks brought a lot of new instruments = rabab and sarangi and other new musical modes and regulations. Amir Khusrau credited with invention of sitar and table. Ragadarpan was translated into Persian during Firuz Tughlaq’s reign. Music flourished in palaces, especially Gwalior (Raja Man Singh). Man Kautuhal contained all new musical nodes introduced by Muslims and was prepared under Man Singh’s reign. No clear data on when North and South Indian sides began to differ but difference would’ve been due to incorporation of Perso-arabic modes, airs and scales in North India. Kashmir developed distinctive style of music. Sikandar Lodi patronized music a lot nd was followed in that by Mughals.

Struggle for Empire in North India Part II – Mughals and Afghans

Timur united Iran and Turan under one rule again. Emprie from Lower Volga to Indus, including Asia minor, Iran, trans-oxiana, Afg and part of Punjab. His son Shahrukh Mirza maintained the empire. Samarqand and Herat became great cultural centres. Timurid tradition of partitioning the empire led to weakening. As a result, Uzbeks (Mongol tribe) thrust from North into transoxiana. Safavids began to dominate Iran in teh West. They were descended from prophet and were Shias. Ottoman Turks were growing west of Iran. In 16th century, all three mighty empires fought each other.

Babur tried to capture Samarqand, succeeded twice but was ousted with help of Uzbek Shaibani Khan who also overran rest of Timurid kingdoms. So Babur came to Kabul. Shaibani overran Herat and quarrelled with Safavids who laid claim over Herat. Shah of Iran killed Shaibani in 1510 and Babur captured Samarqand again, only to be removed by Uzbek successors. He came back to Kabul, Shah of Iran was killed by Ottoman Turks and Uzbeks became masters of Trans-Oxiana. So Babur looked towards India. Other reasons were wealth of India, his thought of being a rightful claimant to NW India and poor income from Kabul.

Situation was proper for Babur. Sikandar Lodi had died and Obrahim had succeeded, had planend to centralize and failed; Punjab governor Daulat Khan Lodi was almost an independent governor.Babur captured frontier fort of Bhira in 1518-19 and asked Daulat and Ibrahim to cede Turkish territories. No one listened. Babu returned to Kabul and Bhira was lost. He again aptured Bhira and Sialkot (two gateways to Hindustan) and Lahore in 1520-21 but had to go back to quell revolt at Qandahar.

Then, Babur received embassies from Daulat Khan to help topple Ibrahim and letter from Rana SAnga to invade India. While entering, he came to know Daulat had changed sides but he still defeated Daulat and conquered Punjab.

**Battle of Panipat (1526)** **happened between Ibrahim Lodi and Babur.**

Babur had a numerically inferior army but he won due to strategy. Gunpowder was known in India from Vijayanagar days but common use in North India started after this battle when Babur used it in his artillery. The battle was a decisive one in Indian history and it gave Babur control over Delhi and Agra. But Babur had to fight two wars – against Rana Sanga (Mewar) and against eastern Afghans to consolidate his rule.

Sanga’s and Babur’s forces met at **Battle of Khanwa (1527).** Lodis, ruler of Alwar etc were on Sanga’s side but all were defeated. Sanga was killed. Babur conquered Alwar, Malwa and returned to deal with eastern Afghans (Lodi successors). These Afghans were independent from Lodi (remember they asserted their independence?) and led by Nusrat shah of Bengal. They now rallied under Mahmud Lodi, Ibrahim’s brother. Babur crossed Ganga and met the armies but could not secure a decisive victory and patched up an agreement in order to return to manage Kabul. HE died before reaching Kabul.

Significance of Babur’s advent and Qualities:

1. For the first time afte rKushan empire, Kabul and Qandhar became integral parts of north Indian empire.

2. Economically, access to these regions strengthened foreign trade since these two regions were starting points for caravans going to China in the East and Mediterranean in the West.

3. Balance of power (dealt with earlier) among different kingdoms was destroyed and was a precursor to all-India empire.

4. New mode of warfare introduced. Skilled artillery and cavalry. Popularization of gunpowder.

5. Established the presence of the Crown that had diminished after Lodis became weak. He was a descendant of Changes and Timur and thus set up the Timurid dynasty in India.

6. Endeared himself to his begs and partook of soldiers’ hardships.

7. Jolly and merry but stern disciplinarian. Rewarded loyalty but was cruel with the disloyal.

8. Kept court free from theological and sectarian conflicts. Was a Sunni but not a bigot.

9. Learned in Persian and Arabic. Wrote Tuzuk-i-Baburi, a masnavi and books on flora and fauna. Led a tradition of establishing gardens with water running through them.

10. Introduced a new concept of State backed with strength and prestige of the Crown instead of religious ideology or sectarian bigotry.