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FIAS – GS Foundation 2024 | Benchmark Assignment #61

**GS FOUNDATION PROGRAM 2024***to be filled by the student:***BATCH: D9**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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*For Office Use Only***Feedbacks:**

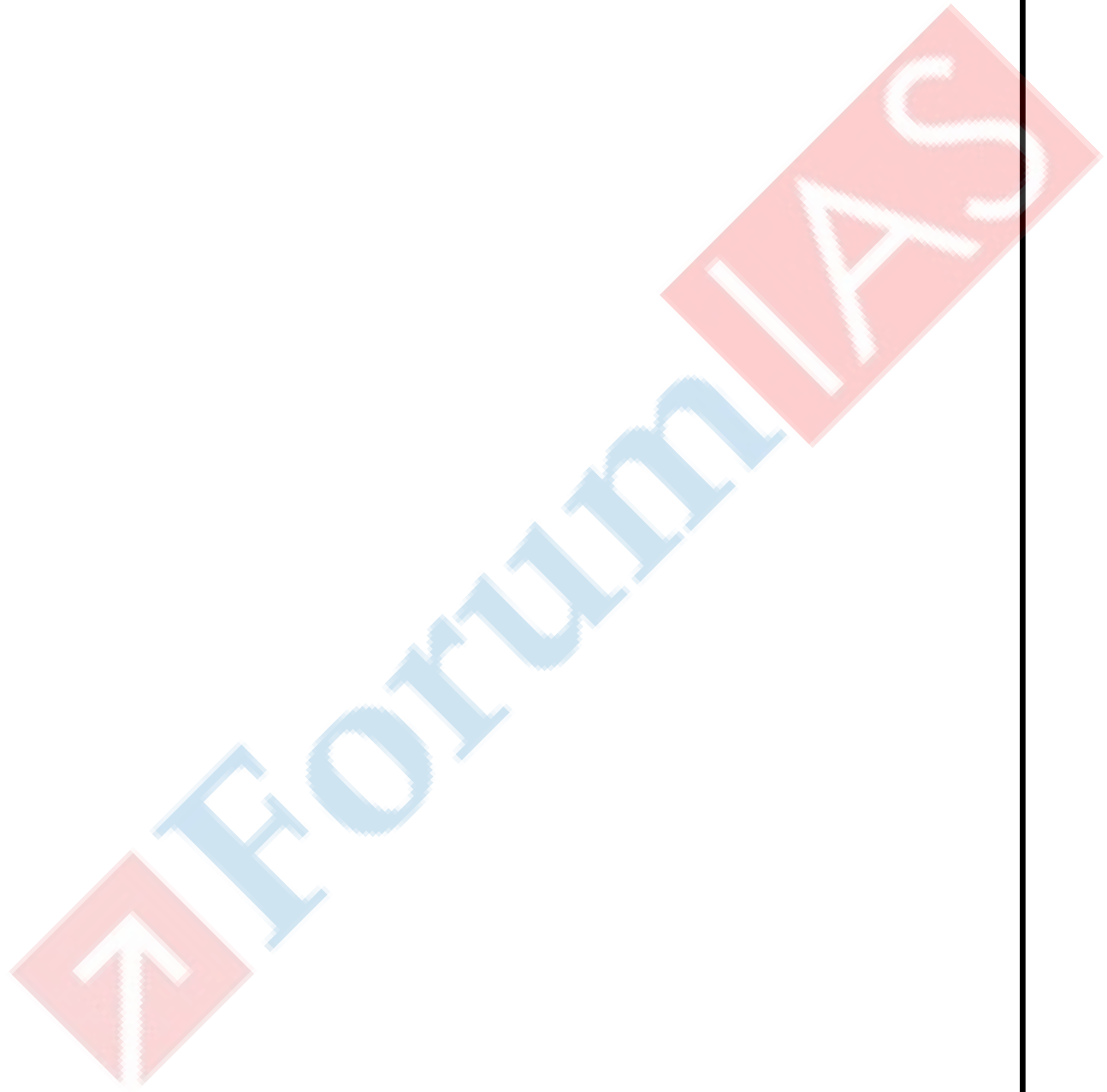
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Immediate Efforts/Improvement Required
Content					
Presentation					
Structure					
Consistency					
Revision/Recall					

**Marks:**

Subjective	Objective	Total

**Subjective Questions:**

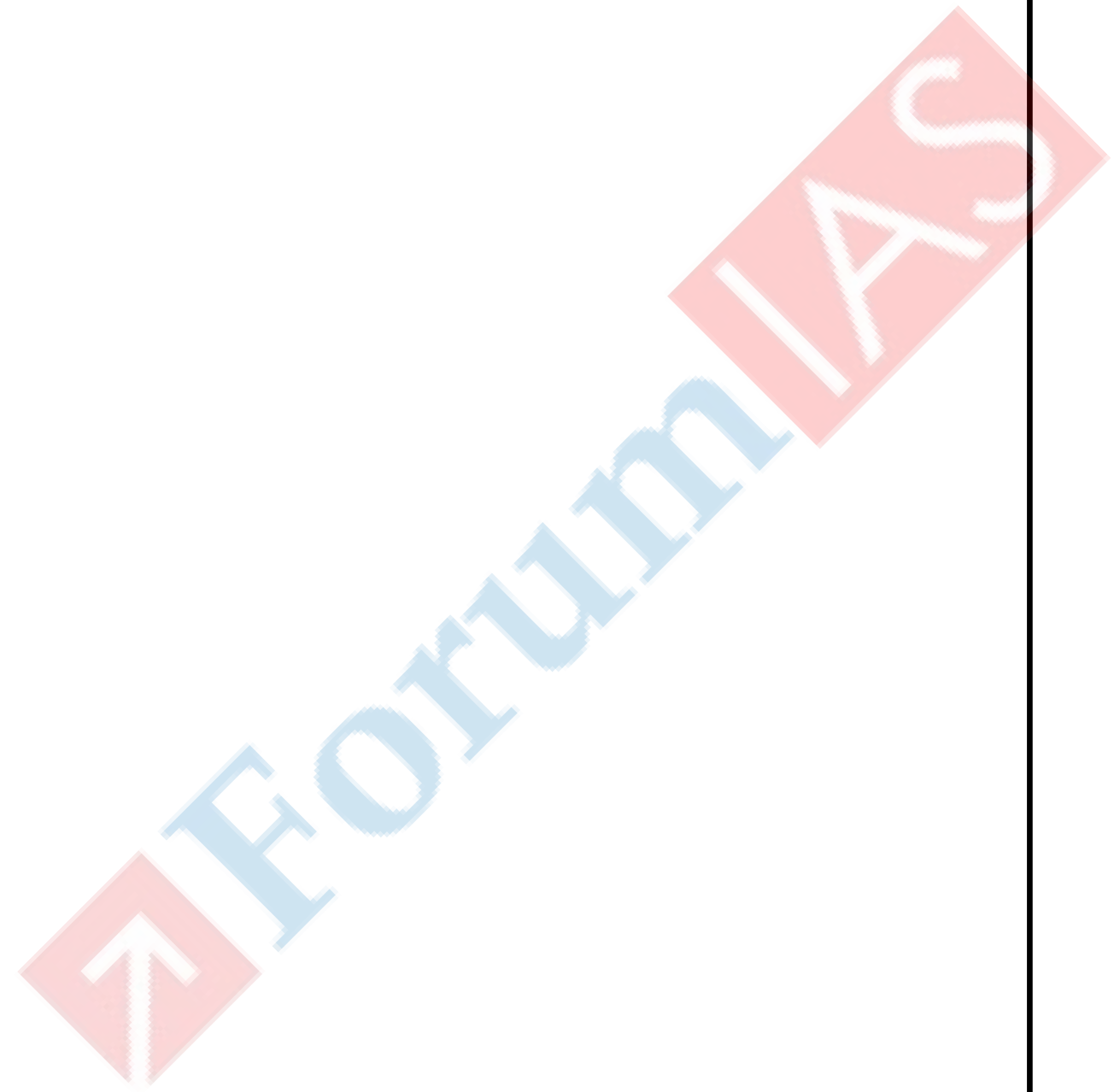
**Q.1) Despite of differences at various levels, India-China relations are critical to realise Asian century.” Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)**



**Q.2) Write a brief note on the administrative system of the Vijayanagar Empire.**

**(10 marks, 150 words)**





**Objective Questions:**

**Q.1)** Which of the following reforms were introduced by Alauddin Khalji?

1. Payment of salaries to soldiers in cash
2. Fixing the price of commodities
3. Imposition of Irrigation tax

Select the correct answer from the options given below:

- ☐ a) 1 and 3 only
- ☐ b) 2 and 3 only
- ☐ c) 1,2 and 3
- ☐ d) 1 and 2 only

**Q.2)** Which of the following reasons were responsible for multiple foreign invasions on India during medieval period?

1. Religious zeal to expand Islam
2. To plunder economic wealth of India
3. To have political control over the fertile plains of India

Select the correct answer using the options given below:

- ☐ a) 1 only
- ☐ b) 2 and 3 only
- ☐ c) 2 only
- ☐ d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding Delhi Sultanates:

1. Lodi dynasty was the first to be headed by the Afghans.
2. The city of Tughlaqabad was founded by the Ghiasuddin Tughlaq.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- ☐ a) 1 only
- ☐ b) 2 only
- ☐ c) Both 1 and 2
- ☐ d) Neither 1 or 2

**Q.4)** With reference to the Raziya Sultana, consider the following statements:

1. Iltutmish chose his daughter Raziya to be his successor.
2. She was the first ruler to organize his trusted nobles into a group called "Chahalgani".
3. She appointed an African slave Yaqut as master of the horses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Q.5)** Which of the following were the reasons for the decline and disintegration of the Delhi Sultanate?

1. Weak personality and military inefficiency of all the Sultans
2. System of granting hereditary iqta
3. Successive rebellions in different parts of the empire.
4. Absence of a clear law of succession
5. Constant invasion from outside

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- ☐ a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- ☐ b) 3 and 4 only
- ☐ c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- ☐ d) 2, 3 and 5 only

## GS Foundation Program 2024 | D9 | Benchmark Assignment #61

### Subjective Questions:

**Q.1) Despite of differences at various levels, India-China relations are critical to realise Asian century.” Discuss.**

#### Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Importance of India-China relationship in realising Asian Century.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Asian Century is the projected 21st century dominance of Asian economics, politics and culture. The growing importance and emphasis of unity in Asia, demand progressive relationships among countries in the region to realise the 21st Asian Century. India and China represent 40% of the world and are centre of growth in Asia. Thus, relationship between two countries is paramount to realisation of Asian century.

#### Differences between India and China:

**Border Dispute and Line of Actual Control (LAC):** The India-China border is not clearly demarcated, and there is no mutually agreed Line of Actual Control (LAC) in certain areas. The LAC came into existence after the 1962 Indo-China war. The border is divided into three sectors: **Western Sector (Ladakh), Middle Sector (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), and Eastern Sector (Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim).**



The Economist

**Historical Cycles of Conflict and Cooperation:** Over the past 75 years, India-China relations have experienced periods of conflict and cooperation. Recent serious episodes of conflict



occurred in Galwan Valley, Ladakh, in 2020, and in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh, in 2022. Observers note an increase in military confrontations since 2013.

**Partnerships with External Powers:** India and China's partnerships with each other's main enemies, including Russia and the United States, have hindered them from becoming strategic partners and cooperating on strategic matters.

**Growing Power Gap and Challenges:** The significant power gap between China and India, with China's GDP being five times that of India's, poses challenges for India in balancing assertiveness and accommodation without appearing to surrender.

**Infrastructure Build-up and Security Dilemma:** Infrastructure development by China such as through **Belt and Road initiative** and particularly in Tibet, has led to a security dilemma for India, resulting in a spiral of military relations that may increase the temptation for one or both sides to engage in conflict.

**However, importance of India-China relationship in realizing Asian Century:**

1. **Economic development:** Asia is experiencing robust economic performance over the three decades, spearheaded by India and China. Asian century can't be realised without economic development of the two countries and moving out millions of people in the region out of poverty. Both nation must enhance bilateral relations in a positive way leading to a path of development.
2. **Demographic dividend:** Population growth in Asia is expected to continue for at least the first half of the 21st century. This will result in a huge demographic dividend in the region. Thus, coordination between two nations by providing opportunities and employment driven by economic growth is necessary.
3. **Investment:** India and China relations has not reached full potential due to lack of bilateral investments. Where China can provide market for India to invest in pharmaceutical industry, agricultural products, software industry; India is a market for China for its technological industry. Creation of New Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and Asian Development Bank are new engine of growth in the region. These institutions would fail without cooperation between New Delhi and Beijing.
4. **Success of new organisations:** New Organisations like Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and economic deals like Transpacific partnership and RCEP are indicators of Asia emerging as a center for geo-economics and geo-politics. These platforms as a centre of Asian century would be successful only when two engines of growth cooperate with each other and work together.
5. **Regional Stability:** Asian century can't be realized under the threat of terrorism. It has impacted regional structures in South Asian countries in a negative way. It is very important for the two countries to stand together against terrorism to promote stability in the region. Regional stability would ensure mutual growth.

6. **Trade:** Total trade between China and India in 2022 was \$113.83 billion, with India exporting \$15.32 billion worth of goods to China and China importing \$98.51 billion worth of goods from India. The fact that both these countries are the two big Asian giants, it is imperative for both to be allies so as to support each other and continue their bid for the strongest power.

**Some important steps to boost bilateral relations among two nations:**

1. Establishment of bilateral group with experts from both countries who would workout a plan for further cooperation.
2. Capacity building in **combating terrorism of intelligence, police, military and para-military forces** through training.
3. Promotion of greater coordination to **resolve boundary disputes** among two nations.
4. Correction of bilateral trade balance to ensure mutual economic development.
5. **Legal and moral support** to each other at all international platforms.
6. Increase people to people contacts through **tourism and cultural exchange**.

It should also be noted that China continues to have border skirmishes and unbalanced trade negotiations with India. China has been seen with a lot of speculation not just in India, but outside as well and on various fronts. Without Chinese cooperation and change in attitude it is tough to realize progress on bilateral relations.

India desires good relations with China, a neighbour and a large economy, and has kept the channels of communication open since the start of the standoff. Against the backdrop of calls by China's leadership to put the border issue in an "appropriate place" while other aspects of the relationship such as trade are normalized. **Our External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has made it clear that ties cannot be taken forward if agreements are violated and peace and tranquility on the LAC are set aside.**

**Q.2) Write a brief note on the administrative system of the Vijayanagar Empire.**

**APPROACH:**

1. Introduction
2. Explain the administrative system of the Vijayanagar Empire.
3. Conclusion

**Ans.** According to tradition and epigraphic evidence, two brothers **Harihara and Bukka founded the Vijayanagara Empire in 1336**. This empire included within its fluctuating frontiers people who spoke different languages and followed different religious traditions.

**Administrative system:**

1. **Rulers:** The rulers of Vijayanagara called themselves **Rayas**. The king enjoyed **absolute authority** in executive, judicial and legislative matters. He was the highest court of appeal. The succession to the throne was on the **principle of hereditary**. Sometimes

usurpation of the throne took place as Saluva Narasimha came to power by ending the Sangama dynasty. The king was **assisted by a council of ministers** in his day-to-day administration.

2. **Nayakas:** Among those who exercised power in the empire were **military chiefs who usually controlled forts and had armed supporters**. These chiefs often moved from one area to another, and in many cases were accompanied by peasants looking for fertile land on which to settle. These chiefs were known as Nayakas, and they usually **spoke Telugu or Kannada**. Many Nayakas submitted to the authority of the kings of Vijayanagara but they often rebelled and had to be subdued by military action.
3. **Amara-nayaka system:** The Amara-nayaka system was a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire. The Amara-nayakas were **military commanders who were given territories to govern by the Raya**. They collected taxes and other dues from peasants, craftspersons, and traders in the area. They **retained part of the revenue** for personal use and for maintaining a stipulated contingent of horses and elephants. These contingents **provided the Vijayanagara kings with an effective fighting force** with which they brought the entire southern peninsula under their control.
4. **Local units:** The Empire was divided into different administrative units called **Mandalams, Nadus, sthalas, and finally gramas**. The governor of Mandalam was called **Mandaleswara or Nayak**. Vijayanagar rulers gave full powers to the local authorities in the administration.
5. **Revenue and expenditure:** Besides land revenue, **tributes and gifts from vassals** and feudal chiefs, customs collected at the ports, and **taxes on various professions** were other sources of income for the government. **Land revenue** was fixed generally at one-sixth **of the produce**. The expenditure of the government includes the personal expenses of the king and the charities given by him and military expenditure.
6. **Justice:** The king was the supreme judge, but there were **regular courts and special judicial officers** for the administration of justice. Harsh punishments such as mutilation and throwing in front of elephants were followed.
7. **Army:** The Vijayanagar army was **well-organized and efficient**. It consisted of **the cavalry, infantry, artillery, and elephants**. High-breed horses were procured from foreign traders. The top-grade officers of the army were **Nayaks or Poligars**. They were granted land in lieu of their services. These lands were called **Amaram**. Soldiers were usually paid in cash.

Vijayanagara, like many empires of its time, witnessed a **transition between the medieval and early modern periods**. The city of Vijayanagara was destroyed after the defeat of its army at the fateful **Battle of Talikota on January 26, 1565**. The empire managed to **survive until 1646**, but much of it fragmented into **independent kingdoms** like Mysore and Madurai.

**Objective Questions:**

**Q.1)** Which of the following reforms were introduced by Alauddin Khalji?

1. Payment of salaries to soldiers in cash
2. Fixing the price of commodities
3. Imposition of Irrigation tax

Select the correct answer from the options given below:

- ☐ a) 1 and 3 only
- ☐ b) 2 and 3 only
- ☐ c) 1,2 and 3
- ☐ d) 1 and 2 only

**Ans) d**

**Exp) Option d is correct.**

**Statement 1 is correct:** Alauddin Khalji maintained a large **permanent standing army** and **paid** them in **cash** from the royal treasury. He introduced the system of dagh (branding of horses) and prepared huliya (descriptive list of soldiers).

**Statement 2 is correct:** The introduction of paying salaries in cash to the soldiers led to price regulations popularly called as **Market Reforms**. Alauddin Khalji established four separate markets in Delhi, one for grain; another for cloth, sugar, dried fruits, butter and oil; a third for horses, slaves and cattle; and a fourth for miscellaneous commodities. Regulations were issued to **fix the price of commodities**. Each market was under the control of a high officer called **Shahna-i- Mandi**. Every merchant was registered under the Market department. There were secret agents called munhiyans who sent reports to the Sultan regarding the functioning of these markets. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** During the reign of **Firoz Tughlaq**, the iqta system was not only revived but also it was made hereditary. As per the Islamic law he levied the taxes. **Jaziya was strictly imposed** on non-Muslims. He was the first Sultan to **impose irrigation tax**.

**Q.2)** Which of the following reasons were responsible for multiple foreign invasions on India during medieval period?

1. Religious zeal to expand Islam
2. To plunder economic wealth of India
3. To have political control over the fertile plains of India

Select the correct answer using the options given below:

- ☐ a) 1 only
- ☐ b) 2 and 3 only
- ☐ c) 2 only
- ☐ d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans) d**

**Exp) Option d is correct.**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The **religious zeal of the Arabs**, the desire to extend the empire and the allurements of wealth through conquest were primary reasons of Arab attack by **Muhammad-Bin-Qasim in 711 A.D.** Muhammad defeated Dahar and captured Sindh in 712 A.D. In 713 A.D. he captured Multan as well. The credit of establishing the Muslim rule in India went to the Turks. They proved more fanatic in their **religious zeal as compared to the Persians** and the Arabs. They also believed in the superiority of their race.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Timur (1398-1399 A.D.) himself cleared his objectives for attacking India. The one was to fight against and destroy the infidels, and the other was to **plunder their wealth**. Indian wealth had always attracted the foreign invaders from Greek invasion to British period.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Foreign invaders especially Turks and Mongols wanted to **control the fertile plains of India**. It would have provided them with the constant source of revenue. It would have helped them to extend their influence from Persia to Indian sub-continent.

**Q.3)** Consider the following statements regarding Delhi Sultanates:

1. Lodi dynasty was the first to be headed by the Afghans.
2. The city of Tughlaqabad was founded by the Ghiasuddin Tughlaq.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- ☐ a) 1 only
- ☐ b) 2 only
- ☐ c) Both 1 and 2
- ☐ d) Neither 1 or 2

**Ans) c**

**Exp) Option c is correct.**

**Statement 1 is correct:** The Lodi Dynasty was established by **Bahlol Lodi (1451-1489)** whose reign witnessed the conquest of Sharqi Kingdom (Bengal). It was the **first empire in India ruled by the Afghans**. The Sur Empire was the second Afghan dynasty which ruled between 1540 and 1556. The most famous ruler of Sur Empire was Sher Shah Suri.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Ghiasuddin Tughlaq (1320 – 1325) **founded the city of Tughlaqabad** by starting the construction of Tughlaqabad Fort. He was the founder of the Tughluq dynasty.

**Q.4)** With reference to the Raziya Sultana, consider the following statements:

1. Iltutmish chose his daughter Raziya to be his successor.
2. She was the first ruler to organize his trusted nobles into a group called "Chahalgani".
3. She appointed an African slave Yaqut as master of the horses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

**Raziya Sulatana (1236-1240)** was the ruler of Delhi Sultanate who succeeded Iltutmish.

**Statement 1 is correct:** Iltutmish did not consider any of his sons worthy of the throne. He chose his daughter **Raziya** to be his successor. But after his death his son **Ruknuddin Firoz ascended** the throne with the help of army leaders. But Raziya soon ascended the throne after **removing her brother** with the support of the people of Delhi and some military leaders.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Iltutmish (AD 1210-1236) (not Raziya) organised his trusted nobles or officers into a group of "Forty" (**Turkan-i-Chahalgani**). The nobility realized that Raziya was not willing to be a puppet in their hands, therefore the nobles started revolting against her in the provinces.

**Statement 3 is correct:** Raziya appointed the **Abyssinian, Malik Jamaluddin Yaqut**, as the **amir-i-akhur (master of the horses)**. They accused her of violating feminine modesty and being too friendly to an Abyssinian noble, Yaqut. She got killed after she was defeated by the nobles. Thus her reign was a brief one and came to end in AD 1240.

**Q.5)** Which of the following were the reasons for the decline and disintegration of the Delhi Sultanate?

1. Weak personality and military inefficiency of all the Sultans
2. System of granting hereditary iqtas
3. Successive rebellions in different parts of the empire.
4. Absence of a clear law of succession
5. Constant invasion from outside

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- ☐ a) 1, 2 and 5 only
- ☐ b) 3 and 4 only
- ☐ c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- ☐ d) 2, 3 and 5 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is correct.

**Statement 1 is incorrect.** The personality, ability and military efficiency of the Sultans was not weak. For example, under Iltutmish, Balban or Alauddin, the administration was effective, and Sultan's orders were obeyed.

**Statement 2 is correct.** Firuz Tughlaq followed a policy of appeasement of the nobles and the army in an effort to address the weaknesses in the administration. For this, Firuz made offices and iqtas hereditary. Though this policy resulted in short-term political stability, in the long term it weakened the sultan tremendously vis-a-vis the nobles and the army.

**Statement 3 is correct.** Though rebellions by ambitious nobles were not a new feature, the problem faced by the Tughlaqs was that the **rebellions took place one after another in different parts of the empire. This put a tremendous amount of strain on the empire causing huge losses in terms of financial resources and soldiers.**

**Statement 4 is correct.** There **was absence of clear law of succession during** this period. All the sons **had equal claim to the throne**. Interestingly, the idea of primogeniture was fully acceptable neither to the Muslims nor to the Hindus. Iltutmish nominated his daughter Raziya in preference to his sons.

**Statement 5 is correct.** Constant invasion by **Mongols and foreign invaders** expedited the decline and disintegration of Delhi Sultanate.