



# LAST MINUTE PRELIMS RECKONER 2025

**MEDIEVAL INDIAN HISTORY**

**MEDIEVAL INDIAN TERMINOLOGIES**

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### SULTANATE ADMINISTRATION:

- **Central administration:**
  - **Diwan-i-Wizarat:**
    - It was the **finance** department headed by the **wazir**.
    - Wazir was assisted by **mushrif-i-mamalik** (accountant) who maintained a record of the accounts and the **mustauf-i-mamalik** (auditor).
  - **Diwan-i-Arz:**
    - Headed by the **Ariz-i-mamalik**, it was the ministry of **defence**.
    - It was first established by **Balban**.
  - **Diwan-i-Insha:**
    - It was the department of **correspondence** and was headed by **dabir-i-mamalik** (or amir- munshi).
  - **Diwan-i-Risalat:**
    - It handled the **public charities and ecclesiastical** department and was headed by the **sadr-us-sudur**.
- **Other departments under various sultans:**
  - **Khwaja:**
    - An officer appointed during Balbans period for **revenue calculation** of Iqtas.
  - **Diwan i Mushtakraj:**
    - An officer appointed to **monitor revenue collection** under Aladdin Khalji.
  - **Shahna i Mandi, Raias Parwana:**
    - Officers appointed to **monitor market reforms** of Aladdin Khalji.
    - Under a department known as **Diwan i riyasat**.
  - **Diwan i Bandagan:**
    - Department of **Slaves** created by Firuz Shah Tughluq.
  - **Diwan-i-Khairat:**
    - **Charity** department created by Firuz shah Tughluq.

### MUGHAL ADMINISTRATION:

- Mughal empire was divided into **Subahs (provinces)** and Subahs into **Sarkars** and further into **Parganas**.
- **Central administration**
  - **Vakil:**
    - Minister in charge of **general administration**
  - **Diwan i Ala:**
    - In charge of **revenue administration**
    - Controlled provincial diwans
    - **Diwan i Khalisa, Diwan i Jagir** monitored revenues of Jagir and Khalisa (Land directly under royal control) respectively.

- **Mir Bakshi:**
  - Managed the **military department and appointment of mansabdars**.
  - Similar to Diwan i arz of sultanate period.
- **Mir Saman:**
  - Incharge of the **royal house-hold**
- **Sadr:**
  - Head of the **religious** as well as **justice** department.
  - Also called **qaziul- quzzat**, or head of the judiciary, and appointed qazis all over the empire

#### Classification of lands under Akbar

- ✓ **Polaj** is land which is annually cultivated for each crop in succession and is never allowed to lie fallow.
- ✓ **Parauti** is land left out of cultivation for a time that it may recover its strength.
- ✓ **Chachar** is land that has lain fallow for three or four years.
- ✓ **Banjar** is land uncultivated for five years and more. Of the first two kinds of land, there are three classes, good, middling, and bad.
- ✓ They add together the produce of each sort, and the third of this represents the medium produce, one-third part of which is exacted as the Royal dues.

#### ➤ Provincial administration:

- **Nazim/Subedar:**
  - Head of province or Subah.
  - Head of **civil military** and **judicial** systems in provinces
- **Diwan:**
  - Head of **finances** in provinces
  - He reported directly to imperial diwan and not to subedar.
- **Bakshi:**
  - Looked after **military construction and salary** at local levels.
- **Waqia navis**
  - Functionary in charge of **news writing and intelligence**.
- **Kotwal:** officer mainly appointed in cities for maintenance of **law and order**.
- **Muhtasib:**
  - Their major work was to see that people lived their lives in accordance with the Islamic law >> Can be termed as officer for **public morality**.
- **Sarkar/ district level:**
  - Faujdar: Enforced law and order
  - Amal Guzar/ Karori: Head of revenue department
- **Pargana/Sub district level:**
  - Qanungo: keeper of revenue records
  - Chaudhuri: in charge of revenue collection
  - Qazi: Judicial officers

Term	Description
Amil	✓ Officers in charge of revenue collection in sultanate
Amir/Umara	✓ Noble/ Collective term of nobility
Cartaz	✓ Cartaz was a permit given by the Portuguese to marine traders.
Chettiyars, Banjaras, Marwaris, Baqqal, Baniyas	✓ Merchant Communities ✓ Baqqal was a generic term as well as a specific term for Grain trader
Dadni	✓ Giving of advances (dadan) to artisans by merchants in return for products that would be produced
Dastur-ul-Amals	✓ Revenue rules. Each province was divided into revenue circles or dasturs in the Mughal revenue system.
Dhimmis	✓ Non-muslim sects who lived under Islamic rule after paying Jaziya
Diwan i Bayutat	✓ He was the head of Kharkhanas. This post is mentioned during both Delhi Sultanate and mughal times
Du-aspa sih-aspa	✓ Du aspa siha aspa system was a variation of Mansabdari system introduced from Jahangirs period.
Farman	✓ Imperial orders
Farr-i-izidi	✓ Part of theory of kingship of Mughals. Means divine illumination.
Fotehdar	✓ Treasurer at Pargana level
Ganj	✓ A grain market
Haq-i-Sharb	✓ Irrigation tax introduced under Firuz Shah Tugluq.
Ijara	✓ Revenue farming system in which revenue collection was deputed to a ijaradar on advance payment of a certain amount.
Jarib	✓ A measurement used for land measurement.
Kankut	✓ A method of calculating tax from produce. It was a rough estimate of produce on the basis of actual inspection and past experience.
Kharaj, Charai, Gharai, Abwabs	✓ Tax terms ✓ Kharaj was the land tax, Charai was tax on animals and Gharai was tax on houses ✓ Abwabs were miscellaneous group of taxes.
Khots/Muqaddam /Chaudari	✓ Village headman/ intermediaries. Collected Revenue. ✓ Chaudhari had a higher position than other two.
Khud-kasht, Raiyat, Balahar, Mirasdar Upari	✓ Khud-Kasht, Mirasdar etc were rich peasants who owned and hired labour. ✓ Balahar, Pahi, Upari etc were terms for poor agricultural peasants.

Khums	✓ It was the share of state from plunder obtained during wars.
Kotwal	✓ Kotwal was a title used in medieval India for the leader of a Kot or fort. Kotwals often controlled the fort of a major town or an area of smaller towns on behalf of another ruler.
Kshatarapa/Satrap	✓ A term used from ancient period generally denoting a regional vassal or governor. Later it became the names of dynasties and titles. (eg: Western Kshatrapa dynasty)
Madad- i-maash	✓ Grants of land, generally tax free given to religious or other persons.
Mahzar	✓ A declaration signed by Ulama
Maktab Khana	✓ A translation bureau established at Fatehpur Sikri. Books like Mahabharata, Ramayana, Lilavat were some of the ✓ notable Sanskrit works that were taken up for translation
Maund	✓ A measure of weight.
Misl	✓ Misl generally refers to the sovereign states of the Sikh Confederacy that rose during the 18th century.
Mohur, Rupya, Dam	✓ Mughal coin systems. Mohur was gold, Rupya silver and Dam copper.
Nankar	✓ Portion of revenue given to Zamindar from what he collected
Nasaq	✓ Land revenue on the basis of estimate.
Nastaliq	✓ Type of persian script and calligraphy used in Indian sub- continent
Nazr and Peshkash	✓ A courtier who approached the mughal emperor offered either a small sum of money (nazr) or a large amount (peshkash).
Patta and Qabuliyat	✓ Land reforms under Shershah. ✓ Under Patta system, the area sown, types of crops cultivated and revenue share was duly written on paper. ✓ The Qabuliyat system involved a deed agreement between the peasant and the government.
Qanungos	✓ Officer responsible for surveying land in pargana during Mughal Period.
Saraffs	✓ A person who facilitated exchange of coins by checking purity of metal.
Sijda, Paibos, Chahar taslim and zaminbos	✓ Forms of salutation in royal court: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sijda was complete prostration</li> <li>○ Chahar taslim is a mode of salutation which begins with placing the back of the right hand on the ground, and raising it gently till the person stands erect, when he puts the palm of his hand upon the crown of his head.</li> <li>○ Zaminbos means kissing the ground</li> </ul>
Taqavi	✓ Loans given to peasants by the state

Silahdar, Ahadis, Dakhilis, Barawardi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Divisions of army</li> <li>✓ Ahadis were personal troops of the emperor, Silahdar were cavalry men with their own weapons, Dakhilis were the troops raised by the emperor but placed under the charge of the mansabdars and Barawardi were soldiers recruited on Ad-hoc basis.</li> </ul>
Tajwiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ It was a petition presented by a nobleman to the Mughal emperor, recommending that an applicant be recruited as mansabdar.</li> </ul>
Tanqa, Jital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Coins used during Sultanate</li> </ul>
Upari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Temporary occupant; tenant-at-will.</li> </ul>
Waqia Navis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ News reporter . At the provincial level, waqia-navis and waqia nigars were appointed to supply the reports directly to the emperor.</li> </ul>
Watandar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The vatandar was person who generally owned a plot of land or vatan/watan worked by the local people, who were dependent on the vatandar for their subsistence.</li> </ul>
Zabt system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A term used for system of revenue collection using land measurement under Mughals.</li> </ul>

