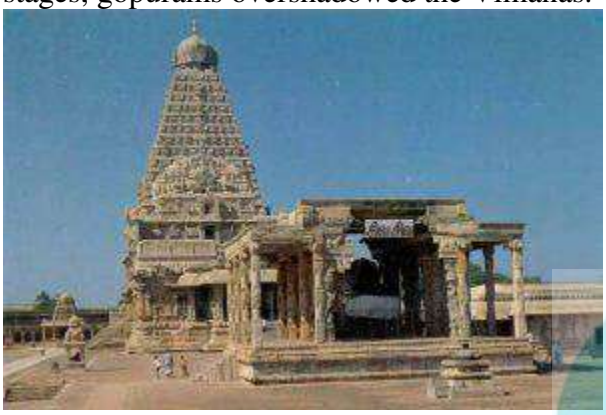
DMPQ- Write down the salient features of Chola architecture

Chief features of Chola architecture are:

(i) Dravidian feature initiated by the Pallavas acquired the classical forms and features under the Cholas such as gopurams, mandapams and Vimanas.

(ii) In the beginning, gopuram features was subdued and vimana features dominated but in the later stages, gopurams overshadowed the Vimanas.



(iii) In the beginning, Vimanas were constructed in the cellular mode as in the Raja ` Rajeshwar temple (Brihadeewarar temple) at Tanjore where in the Vimana, various storeys were constructed in a graded manner. It had 13 storeys. In the later phase, vimanas began to be constructed in circular concept as in the Nataraj temple at Chidambaram.

(iv) The Brihadeeswarar temple at Tanjore is surrounded by a rectangular wall protected by 8 vimanas which hosed the 8 keepers of directions called Ashtadikpalas. The temple is dedicate to lord Shiva and is known as Dakshimeruvitankar. An enormous Nandi which is the second largest in India, carved out of a single block of granite guards the entrance of the sanctuary. The Brihadeeswarar temple at Tanjore is the Tallest of all the temples in India in the medieval period.

(v) Various public works as cities, roads, irrigation works and artificial tanks were constructed. Rajendra Chola I constructed a city, a water tank and a temple with the same name of Gangaikondacholapuram temple.

DMPQ- Lord William Bentinck was the first governor general of India. He introduced various reforms. Discuss the reforms brought by him

LW Bentinck is associated with various reforms. He was one of the few Governor generals who tried to bring various reforms in Indian society and the administration. Social reforms initiated by him got a set back after 1857 revolution. The various reforms brought by him are as follows:



Associated with a great many social reforms viz.

- Abolished sati system
- Prevented female infanticide →Made it an offence
- Banned human sacrifice
- Reform in the Hindu Law of Inheritance
- Suppression of Thugs by colonel Sleemen

- Adopted policy of non-intervention and only annexed states to end misgovernment.

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- Ended misgovernment in Mysore and put it under lord Cubbon Still Cubbon park at Banglore for his services to Banglore

- Incorporated financial reforms to cut down expenditure viz.

- Abolished double bhatta system
- Reduced salaries as increased by Cornwallis to consolidate finance
- Abolished provincial courts set up by Cornwallis to cut down expenditure
- Abolished the office of SP & vested the collector/magistrate with polish powers

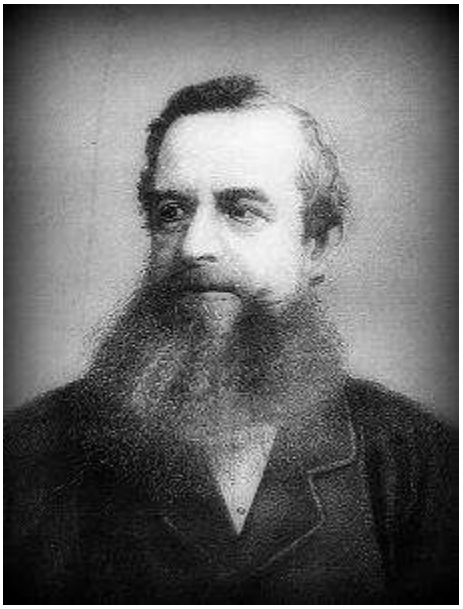
- Introduced Mahalwari system under James Thompson

- Mainly in Punjab, Delhi & Central provinces
- whole village community responsible for revenue settlement

- Introduced local language in lower courts & English in higher courts replacing Persian.
- Under Macaulay committee, made English official & literary language of India
- Laid foundation of Calcutta Medical College – 1835

DMPQ- Lord Ripon was liberal in his attitude and made some remarkable changes in the administrative system of India. Comment

He was a true liberal of Gladstonian Era with a strong belief in the virtues of peace, laissez faire, and self government. He took some steps towards liberalizing the administration in India. His aim was to give popular and political education to the Indians. He formulated the local self government and laid the foundations of representative institutions in India.



Reforms:

- Repeal of Vernacular press act, 1882 : Lord Ripon repealed the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 passed by Lord Lytton by Act III of 1882 and thus news papers published in vernacular languages were allowed equal freedom with the rest of the Indian Press. This action of Ripon went a long way in conciliating public opinion.

- The First Factory Act, 1881: To improve the lot of the factory workers in towns, he passed the first Factory Act in 1881.

- Establishment of Local self-government

- Lord Ripon like his predecessor, Lord Mayo was the follower of the policy of financial decentralization. Ripon divided the sources of revenue into three categories, Viz. Imperial, Provincial and Divided.

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- Lord Ripon appointed an Education Commission in 1882 under the chairmanship of Sir William Hunter to review the progress of education in India, since Wood's dispatch of 1854.

- he succeeded in enhancing the age limit from 18 to 21. For civil service examination.

DMPQ- During the tenure of Lord Lytton as viceroy, a lot of regressive policies were passed which raised the discontent among Indians. Do you agree with the statement

Various repressive measures undertaken by the British authority in India led to the growth of suspicion and hatred towards the British. During the time of Lord Lytton, the Viceroy, certain repressive laws like Vernacular Press Act and Arms Act of 1878 were passed to suppress the Indian mass.



By the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 the editors of the Vernacular newspaper were directed to execute a bond not to publish anything in their paper which would excite feelings of dissatisfaction against the Government. But this Act was not to be applicable to the English news papers. It was, of course abolished by Lord Ripon, another Viceroy in 1882.

By the Indian Arms Act of 1878, the Indians were prohibited to possess any arms without license. Possession of arms by any Indian without license was treated as criminal offence. But this law was not applicable to the British in India.

Lytton made another provision regarding the fixation of age limit for candidates who liked to appear at the Indian Civil Service Examination. He deliberately reduced the age limit for the above purpose from 21 to 19 years in order to debar the Indian youth from competing for the Indian Civil Service.

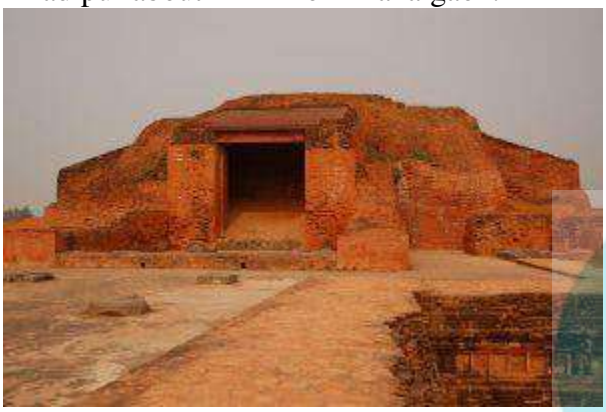
The Grand Delhi Durbar was held in 1877 to proclaim Queen Victoria from England, the Empress of India when a great famine took toll of more than 60 lakhs of people in one part of the country. This apathetic attitude of Lord Lytton infuriated many cautious people of the country.

All these Acts of British authority created a great storm of opposition in the country and led to the formation of various organizations to carry on anti-British propaganda in the country by fanning the fire of nationalism.

DMPQ- Evaluate the importance of Vikramshila as an educational hub in Ancient India

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Vikramashila was one of the two most important centres of learning in India during the Pala Empire, along with Nalanda. Vikramashila was established by King Dharmapala (783 to 820) in response to a supposed decline in the quality of scholarship at Nalanda. Atisha, the renowned pandita, is sometimes listed as a notable abbot. It was destroyed by the forces of Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khilji around 1200. Vikramashila (village Antichak, district Bhagalpur, Bihar) is located at about 50 km east of Bhagalpur and about 13 km north-east of Kahalgaon, a town in Bhagalpur district . It is approachable through 11 km long motorable road diverting from NH-80 at Anadipur about 2 km from Kahalgaon.



A number of monasteries grew up during the Pāla period in ancient Bengal and Magadha. According to Tibetan sources, five great Mahaviharas stood out: Vikramashila, the premier university of the era; Nalanda, past its prime but still illustrious, Somapura, Odantapura, and Jagaddala. The five monasteries formed a network; “all of them were under state supervision” and there existed “a system of co-ordination among them. It seems from the evidence that the different seats of Buddhist learning that functioned in eastern India under the Pāla were regarded together as forming a network, an interlinked group of institutions,” and it was common for great scholars to move easily from position to position among them. Vikramashila was founded by Pāla king Dharmapala in the late 8th or early 9th century. It prospered for about four centuries before it was destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji along with the other major centres of Buddhism in India around 1200. Vikramashila is known to us mainly through Tibetan sources, especially the writings of Tāranātha, the Tibetan monk historian of the 16th–17th centuries.Vikramashila was one of the largest Buddhist universities, with more than one hundred teachers and about one thousand students. It produced eminent scholars who were often invited by foreign countries to spread Buddhist learning, culture and religion. The most distinguished and eminent among all was Atiśha Dipankara, a founder of the Sarma traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. Subjects like philosophy, grammar, metaphysics, Indian logic etc. were taught here, but the most important branch of learning was tantrism.

DMPQ- Write an essay on the rule of Firuz Shah Tughlaq

Firuz Shah Tughlaq was the successor of Mohammed Bin Tughlaq. Firuz Shah was a caring ruler unlike Mohammed bin Tughlaq. He made sure that people in his kingdom were happy and heard out their problems patiently. However, he was not militarily strong and could not sustain any sort of external attacks or aggression. Firuz Shah breathed his last in the year 1388 and after that the Tughlaq dynasty faded away in no time.



Firuz was born in 1309. He was Muhammad’s cousin. Firuz was at Thatta when Muh~mmad-bin-Tughlaq breathed his last in 1351. He was chosen the Sultan by the nobles.

Firuz was of ***a merciful and pious disposition***, and he preferred peace to the glories of conquest. He

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was a true friend of the peasants and he cancelled the loans which had been advanced by his predecessor. He reduced taxation to the limits prescribed by the Quran. Agriculture was developed by the reclamation of waste lands and by providing irrigation facilities. Firuz mitigated the severity of the criminal law by abolishing torture and mutilation as forms of punishment. His other measures included the establishment of a charitable department in Delhi (diwan-i-khairat).

Firuz re-introduced the system of jagirs or grant of land with its revenue to his military officers in lieu of cash salaries. He decreed hereditary succession to iqta.

Firuz Tughlaq was ***an enthusiastic builder*** and is famous for his enlightened public works. He built a new capital at Delhi and named it Firuzabad. Its ruins are the Kotla Firuz Shah. He also founded the cities of Hissar, Fatehabad, Firuzpur and Jaunpur. Firuz Tughlaq constructed the Yamuna canal to supply water to the cities of Firuzpur and Hissar.

He built the Kali Masjid and Lal Gumbad. He had two of Asoka's pillars brought to Delhi; one from Khizrabad and the other from Meerut. Barani and AsH wrote noteworthy historical works in his reign.

Firuz Shah himself authored the Fatuhat-i-Firuz Shahi. He got several ***Sanskrit works translated into Persian***. Firuz is also credited with organising the institution of slavery into a system. He took special care to maintain and educate the slaves, and utilise their services as soldiers, bodyguards and artisans.

Firuz declared his principle ***of levying taxes strictly according to the Shariat***. As such, he insisted on the payment of jaziya by all non-Muslims. He was the first Muslim sultan to strictly impose jaziya on the brahmans who had so far been allowed to escape the tax. Surprisingly for a man of humanitarian actions, Firuz was intolerant towards nonMuslims especially in his later years; within the Muslim community, Firuz accepted only the Sunnis not the Shias or Ismailis. He is reported to have demolished Hindu temples. He is also supposed to have publicly burnt a brahman for preaching to Muslims. He got the painted murals in his own palaces erased.

Firuz Tughlaq is largely held responsible for the downfall of the Tughlaq dynasty. His revival of ***the jagir system and establishment of a slave system proved ruinous for the kingdom***. On top of this, his intolerant religious policy alienated the Hindus and Shias. His death was followed by succession wars and only a small area around Delhi remained with the Tughlaqs.

DMPQ- Critically evaluate the rule of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah -The last nawab of Awadh

Wajid Ali Shah, the eldest son of Amjad Ali Shah, became the king of Awadh in 1847. Wajid Ali Shah was himself a great theatre genius and had set up a Pari Khana for training artists. He was also a great patron of artists, singers and musicians. He lived in an atmosphere of gaiety and merriment. Wajid Ali Shah was completely given to pleasure in the closing years of his reign. He was devoted to his large harem, his boon companions, his columbary, and his large and impressive menagerie.

Wajid Ali Shah was greatly interested in architecture. He started building the Qaiser Bagh palace complex as soon as he came to power. The inner court yard of Qaiser Bagh, with its lawns was called Jilo Khana. In the center was a Baradari flanked by two mermaid gates (Lakhigate) on eastern and western ends. On the right end was Chandwali Baradari, which was paved with silver and the Khas Muqam and Badshah Manzil, which used to be special residence of the king. The buildings at Qaiser Bagh quadrangle were occupied mainly by the ladies of his seraglio. To the left of western Lakhi Gate was Roshan-ud Daula Kothi built by the Wazir of Nasiruddin Haider. Wajid Ali Shah confiscated it and named it Qaiser Pasand, where one of his wife Mushuq Mahal used to live.

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