

MCQ Question · mcqquestion.com

Turrebaz Khan

Free · Share

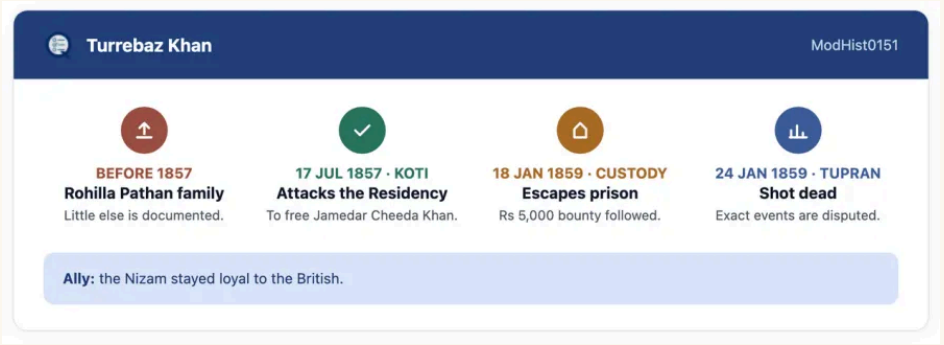
Turrebaz Khan

The Revolt of 1857 is often placed in the north. But in July 1857 rebels also attacked the British Residency in Hyderabad.

One of their leaders was Turrebaz Khan. His name is still used in Hyderabad as a word for a brave person.



The British Residency at Koti, Hyderabad, target of the 1857 attack. No portrait of Turrebaz Khan is known. Photo by Kavali Chandrakanth KCK, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons.



Four turning points in the story of Turrebaz Khan.

Family. Rohilla Pathan, Begum Bazar.
Co-leader. Maulvi Alauddin.
Target. The British Residency, Koti.
Date. 17 July 1857.
Goal. Free Jamedar Cheeda Khan.
Death. Near Tupran, 24 January 1859.

Residency: the home and office of the British Resident, who watched over a princely state.

Rohilla: a Pathan community of north India, many of whom served as soldiers across the country.

Princely state: a region ruled by an Indian prince under British paramountcy.

1 Who was Turrebaz Khan?

Few records of his early life survive.

- He came from a **Rohilla Pathan** family in Begum Bazar, Hyderabad.
- His family was Pathan and Muslim.
- He is also called Turram Khan.
- Some accounts call him a soldier in the Nizam's army.
- Very little is documented about his life before 1857.
- No sketch or portrait of him is known to survive.
- He rose against the British despite the Nizam's opposition.
- His co-leader was **Maulvi Alauddin**.
- Maulvi Alauddin was an imam at Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad.

Quick check 1. Turrebaz Khan and Maulvi Alauddin led the attack on the Residency in Hyderabad. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

2 Why was Hyderabad unusual in 1857?

Its ruler was a British ally.

- Hyderabad was the state of the **Nizam**.
- The Nizam stayed on the British side during 1857.
- Hyderabad was among the largest princely states in India.
- It had accepted a subsidiary alliance with the Company in 1798.
- Under that deal the Nizam kept a British force and paid for it.
- He also gave up an independent foreign policy.
- So the rising was a local, popular act and not state policy.
- The British Resident watched over the state from the Residency.
- The Residency stood at Koti, beside the Musi river.
- James Achilles Kirkpatrick had it built, around 1803 to 1805.
- He was Resident from 1798 to 1805.
- Today the building houses the University College for Women.
- Many people see 1857 as a north Indian event.
- Hyderabad shows that anger against the British also spread to the south.

3 What happened at the Residency?

A march turned into a night of fighting.

- The attack took place on **17 July 1857**.
- The crowd set out from Mecca Masjid.
- It went to the Residency at Koti.
- The goal was to free **Jamedar Cheeda Khan**.
- Cheeda Khan was a soldier held inside the Residency.
- He had been jailed for rebelling against the British.
- Sources disagree on the size of the crowd.
- One account says about 500 people.
- Others say thousands.
- Accounts say the rebels broke through walls to reach the Residency.
- The British opened fire.
- The rebels fought for some hours.
- Some accounts say the fight went on through the night.
- Then they had to retreat.
- The British Resident of the day was Major Cuthbert Davidson.

4 What happened after the attack?

Both leaders were caught, but their stories differ.

- Turrebaz Khan was arrested after the attack.
- He was given a sentence of life imprisonment.
- He escaped on **18 January 1859**.
- A reward of **Rs 5,000** was offered for him.
- That was a large sum at the time.
- He was killed near Tupran on **24 January 1859**.
- Most accounts say he was shot.
- One account places the shooting in a forest.
- Accounts of his final days differ in detail.
- Many accounts say his body was displayed near the Residency.
- The display was meant as a warning to others.
- Maulvi Alauddin escaped on the night of the attack.
- He was caught later.
- He was sent away from Hyderabad in 1859, to the Andamans.
- He is said to have died in prison in 1889.

5 How is he remembered?

Hyderabad kept his name alive in daily speech.

- A street in **Begum Bazar** carries his name.
- People use “Turram Khan” as slang for a brave person.
- In Hyderabad the name now stands for courage.
- After independence, a memorial was raised at Koti.
- It honours those who joined the 1857 attack.

- The historical record about him is thin.
- Much of it comes from later accounts.
- Details such as numbers and the manner of death vary.
- So good answers hedge on those details.

6 What are the exam traps?

Place, ruler and date are the usual traps.

- The attack was in **Hyderabad**, not in Delhi or Awadh.
- The date is **17 July 1857**.
- The Nizam did not lead the revolt.
- The Nizam was a British ally.
- The stated goal was to free Cheeda Khan.
- Cheeda Khan was the prisoner, and Turrebaz Khan was the leader.
- Do not swap the two names.
- It was not to seize the treasury.
- The co-leader was Maulvi Alauddin.
- Maulvi Alauddin was an imam, not a soldier.
- The Residency stood at Koti, not at Golconda.
- His death came in January 1859, not in 1857.
- Do not state the crowd size as a fixed number.
- Read about the Revolt of 1857.
- Read about Nana Sahib.
- Read about Bakht Khan.

> **Quick check 2.** The Nizam of Hyderabad led the revolt against the British in 1857. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Remember: Hyderabad, Nizam an ally. Attack on the Residency, 17 July 1857. Aim: free Jamedar Cheeda Khan. Leaders: Turrebaz Khan and Maulvi Alauddin. Escape 18 January 1859. Killed near Tupran, 24 January 1859.

Think it through: Why does an attack in an allied state matter for 1857?

It shows that anger against the British did not follow princely loyalty. Ordinary people acted even when their ruler did not. So 1857 was wider than the northern map suggests.

Quick check 3. The stated goal of the attack was to free Jamedar Cheeda Khan. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Practice MCQs

1. On 17 July 1857, Turrebaz Khan led thousands of rebels in an attack on which British institution in Hyderabad State?

A. A British Army cantonment

B. The Hyderabad treasury

C. The British Residency

D. The Nizam's palace

See answer ↓

2. What was the immediate, specific goal of Turrebaz Khan's attack on the Hyderabad Residency?

A. To force the Nizam to declare independence

B. To free a jailed soldier, Jamedar Cheeda Khan

C. To assassinate the Resident

D. To seize British weapons and ammunition

See answer ↓

3. After being captured and sentenced to life imprisonment, Turrebaz Khan escaped from jail on 18 January 1859. What reward did the government then offer for his capture?

A. Rs 1,000

B. Rs 5,000

C. Rs 10,000

D. Rs 500

See answer ↓

4. Turrebaz Khan led the 1857 attack on the Hyderabad Residency together with which co-leader?

A. Maulvi Alauddin

B. Ahmadullah Shah

C. Bahadur Shah Zafar

D. Kunwar Singh

See answer ↓

5. Turrebaz Khan's 1857 uprising is notable partly because of where it happened. What made Hyderabad an unusual site for anti-British rebellion that year?

A. It was outside British India entirely

B. It had no British Residency at all

C. It was under direct Mughal control

D. It was ruled by the Nizam, a princely state allied with the British

See answer ↓

6. Turrebaz Khan and his co-leader marched to the British Residency from which Hyderabad mosque?

A. Mecca Masjid

B. Jama Masjid, Delhi

C. Charminar Mosque

D. Toli Masjid

See answer ↓

7. Near which place was Turrebaz Khan shot dead in January 1859, days after his escape?

A. Tupran

B. Warangal

C. Golconda

D. Secunderabad

See answer ↓

8. Which building, once the British Residency at Koti, now houses a women's college?

A. Salar Jung Museum

B. University College for Women

C. Osmania General Hospital

D. Falaknuma Palace

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **C.** Turrebaz Khan led an attack on the British Residency in Hyderabad on 17 July 1857, one of several regional flashpoints during that year's wider revolt. ↑ Q1
2. **B.** The attack aimed to free Jamedar Cheeda Khan, a soldier imprisoned inside the Residency. The rebels breached the walls but could not withstand the British counter-attack. ↑ Q2
3. **B.** A reward of Rs 5,000 was announced for Turrebaz Khan, dead or alive, after his escape. He was tracked down and killed near Tupran within days. ↑ Q3
4. **A.** Turrebaz Khan led the attack together with Maulvi Alauddin, mobilising thousands of rebels against the Residency. ↑ Q4
5. **D.** Hyderabad was a princely state under the Nizam, who remained allied with the British. Turrebaz Khan's attack was a local, popular uprising against that arrangement, not an official state action. ↑ Q5
6. **A.** The march of 17 July 1857 began at Mecca Masjid in Hyderabad. It ended in an attack on the Residency at Koti. ↑ Q6
7. **A.** Records say he was killed near Tupran on 24 January 1859. His body was then displayed near the Residency. ↑ Q7
8. **B.** The Residency at Koti was the target of the 1857 attack. Today the building houses the University College for Women. ↑ Q8

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** ↑ 1
2. **False.** ↑ 2
3. **True.** ↑ 3

Curated by Arsalan Zuberi · mcqquestion.com

Scan to read online

https://mcqquestion.com/articles/modhist0151-turrebaz-khan/