

Chapter 3

The Delhi Sultans

Let's recall

Q.1 Which ruler first established his or her capital at Delhi?

Ans.: In twelfth century, Delhi first became the capital of the kingdom of Tomara Rajputs. It was established as a capital by Ananga Pala.

Q.2 What was the language of administration under the Delhi Sultans?

Ans.: We found inscriptions and coins which helps us to know that Persian was the language of administration under the Delhi Sultans.

Q.3 In whose reign did the Sultanate reach its farthest extent?

Ans.: Under the reign of Aluaddin Khalji and Muhammad Tughluq the Sultanate reached its farthest end.

Q.4 From which country did Ibn Battuta travel to India?

Ans.: Ibn Batuta was a fourteenth century traveler from Morocco, Africa.

Let's understand

Q.5 According to the “circle of justice”, why was it important for military commanders to keep the interests of the peasantry in mind?

Ans.: According to the Circle of Justice, it was important for the military commanders to keep the interests of the peasants in mind because a king can't survive without his soldiers and soldiers need motivation to work for the king so as a reward for their services king have to give them salary

which came from the revenue collected from the peasants and peasants could pay the revenue only when they were prosperous and happy.

Q.6 What is meant by the “internal” and “external” frontiers of the Sultanate?

Ans.: 1. The ‘Internal’ frontiers of the sultanate consisted of the ‘hinterland’ of the garrison towns. These places lied in the close neighbourhood of the capital city of Delhi. The area of internal frontier extended up to the forests of Ganga and Yamuna Doab.

2. The ‘external’ frontiers refer to the unconquered territories especially the southern parts of the subcontinent.

Q.7 What were the steps taken to ensure that muqtis performed their duties? Why do you think they may have wanted to defy the orders of the Sultans?

Ans.: 1. Muqtis were selected on the basis of certain qualification.

2. Their office was not inheritable.

3. They were assigned iqtas for a short period of time.

4. They were shifted from time to time from one iqta to another.

5. The duty of the muqtis was to lead military campaigns and maintain law and order in their iqtas.

6. Accountants were appointed by the state to check the amount of revenue collected.

Reasons to defy the orders of the Sultans:

1. Muqti collected the taxes prescribed by the state and kept the required number of soldiers. They may have wanted to defy the orders of the Sultans to exercise control over the money collected and the military.
2. Sometimes, the harsh conditions of service can be the reason for defying the orders of the Sultans.

Q. 8 What was the impact of the Mongol invasions on the Delhi Sultanate?

Ans.: The impacts of the Mongol invasions in Delhi sultanate are as follows:

- 1) Mongol attacks on Delhi sultanate increased during the reign of Alauddin Khilji and Mohammad Tughlaq.
- 2) This forced the Delhi sultanate to increase their army base.
- 3) Due to the increased army base, the administrative expenses increased because of the strength of the soldiers and they had to pay comparatively more salaries to the soldiers.
- 4) The Alauddin Khilji created garrison town for the soldiers to live whereas Mohammad Tuglaq emptied the garrison towns from the soldiers.
- 5) The financial burden on the Delhi sultanate led to the imposition of heavy taxes on the peasants.

Let's discuss

Q.9 Do you think the authors of tawarikh would provide information about the lives of ordinary men and women?

Ans.: The authors of tawarikh were mainly the city men who worked for the king and never lived in villages. These authors advised the king on the need to preserve an ideal social order based on birthright and gender distinctions. Their ideas were not shared by everybody.

They did not provide information about ordinary men and women. This was because they wrote in expectation of rewards by the sultan.

Q.10 Raziyya Sultan was unique in the history of the Delhi Sultanate. Do you think women leaders are accepted more readily today?

Ans. : Razia Sultan ruled from 1236 to 1240 after which she was dethroned as the nobility could not accept being ruled by a woman. She was an able administrator and was the first woman ruler of the Delhi Sultanate. Her rule was characterised by efficient law and order and she was said to have been very devoted to her subjects.

In today's scenario, women leaders are more readily accepted than the ancient and medieval times. Our Constitution calls for gender equality in society. Sarojini Naidu, Indira Gandhi, Prathiba Patil etc. are some of the examples of women leaders of the modern times.

Q.11 Why were the Delhi Sultans interested in cutting down forests? Does deforestation occur for the same reasons today?

Ans.: Delhi Sultans were interested in cutting down forests because they wanted to encourage agriculture on the land.