

CHAPTER-III

DELHI: 12TH TO 15TH CENTURY

2MARKS QUESTIONS:

1: Why was there no mention of Delhi till 12th century?

Answer:

From 7th to 12th century many regions like Kaveri delta became the centre of large kingdoms. There was no mention of Delhi as it became important only during the 12th century.

2: Name the Rajput dynasties that ruled during 12th century.

Answer:

Ananga Pala of Tomar dynasty and Prithiviraj Chauhan of Chauhan dynasty were important Rajput rulers during the 12th century.

3: Name the rulers of slave dynasty.

Answer:

Qutbuddin Aybak – military general of Muhammad Ghor established the Slave dynasty. He was followed by Iltutmish and Raziyya, the first woman Sultan and Balban.

4: Name the important rulers of other dynasties that ruled over Delhi.

Answer:

Khalji Dynasty – Jalaluddin and Alauddin Khalji

Tughluq Dynasty – Ghiyasuddin, Muhammad and Firuz Shah

Tughlaq

Sayyid Dynasty – Khizr Khan

Lodi Dynasty – Bahlul Lodi.

5: What are sources of information about Delhi Sultans?

Answer:

- Inscriptions, coins and architecture provide a lot of information.
- Tarikh (singular) / Tawarikh (plural) or histories written in Persian, the language of administration under the Delhi Sultans provide valuable information about them.

6: Were there any other women rulers?

Answer:

- Another woman ruler Rudramadevi of Warangal (1262-1289) changed her name on the inscriptions and pretended to be a man.

- Another queen was Didda of Kashmir (980-1003). Her title was an affectionate term coming from didi, given by her subjects.

7: What advice was given to the Delhi Sultans about the slaves?

Answer:

The Delhi Sultans were advised:

- A slave, whom one has brought up and promoted, must be looked after.
- The kingdom needed a whole lifetime and good luck to find a worthy and experienced slave.
- Wise men have said that a worthy and experienced slave is better than a son.

8: Which kinds of taxes were there during Delhi Sultanate?

Answer:

Three kinds of taxes were there during Delhi Sultanate. These were:

1. Kharaj: It was a tax on cultivation. It was about 50 per cent of total produce of the land of a peasant.
2. Tax on the cattles and
3. Tax on houses.

9: Who was Ibn Battuta? When did he come to India?

Answer:

Ibn Battuta was an African traveller. He came to India during the reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughluq. He came to India from Morocco (Africa).

4 MARKS QUESTIONS:

**1: Under which dynasty did Delhi become the capital?
When did it become an important commercial centre?**

Answer:

- Delhi first became the capital of a kingdom under the Tomara Rajputs.
- They were defeated in the middle of the twelfth century by the Chauhans ('Chahamanas) of Ajmer.
- It was under the Tomaras and Chauhans, Delhi became an important commercial centre.
- Many rich Jaina merchants lived in the city and constructed several temples.
- Coins minted here, called Dehliuial, had a wide circulation.

2: Who wrote tawarikh? What did they write? "

Answer:

The authors of tawarikh were learned men.

CLASS-VII-HISTORY

- They included secretaries, administrators, poets and courtiers.
- They recounted events and advised rulers on governance.
- They emphasised the importance of just rule.

Major features of writers of history

- The authors of tawarikh lived in cities (mainly Delhi) and hardly ever in villages.
- They often wrote their histories for Sultans in the hope of rich rewards.
- These authors advised rulers on the need to preserve an “ideal” social order based on birthright and gender distinctions.
- Their ideas were not shared by everybody.

3: Did Raziyya share Minhaj-i Siraj views about women rulers?

Answer:

- Mirihaj expressed that women were subordinate to men. But due to her qualities she (Rajiyya) gained and rose to the throne of Delhi.
- Minhaj-i Siraj thought that the Queen’s rule went against the ideal social order created by God.
- Raziyya did not share these ideas and on her inscriptions and coins Raziyya mentioned that she was the daughter of Sultan Iltutmish.

- It was difficult for women to be a ruler because women were considered the weaker sex. This was in contrast to Queen Rudramadzir who changed her name (from Rudramadevi) and pretended to be a man.

4: Why did the Delhi Sultans not expand their frontiers in the earlier phase of their rule?

Answer:

- In the early thirteenth century the control of the Delhi Sultans did not go beyond heavily fortified towns occupied by garrisons.
- The Sultans seldom controlled the hinterland of the cities.
- They were solely dependent upon tribute or plunder for supplies.
- Controlling garrison towns in distant Bengal and Sind from Delhi was extremely difficult.
- Rebellion, war and bad weather could snap fragile communication routes.
- The state was also challenged by Mongol invasions from Afghanistan.
- The governors rebelled frequently at any sign of the Sultan's weakness.
- The Sultanate barely survived these challenges.

5: What is called a masjid? How is it used?

Answer:

- A mosque is called a masjid in Arabic.
- Literally it is a place where a Muslim prostrates in reverence to Allah.
- In a “congregational mosque” (masjid-ijami or jama masjid) Muslims read their prayers {namaz} together.
- Members of the congregation choose the most respected, learned male as their leader {imam} for the rituals of prayer.
- He also delivers the sermon {khutba} during the Friday prayer.
- During prayer, Muslims stand facing Mecca. In India this is to the west. This is called the qibla.
- The Delhi Sultans built several mosques in cities all over the subcontinent.

6: How was the administration consolidated under Delhi Sultanate?

Answer:

Delhi Sultans required reliable governors and administrators. Rulers especially, Iltutmish favoured special slaves called ‘bandagan’ for this purpose. They did not appoint aristocrats or landed chiefs as governors.

Bandagans were trained for important political offices. They depended totally on their masters therefore, the Sultan could trust them.

The Khaljis and Tughluqs continued this tradition and raised people from humble birth to high positions. They were appointed as generals and governors. All this led to an element of political instability.

7: How were the authorities of muqtis eroded?

Answer:

- Delhi Sultans brought the hinterland of the cities under their control.
- They forced the landed chieftains, the Samantas and rich landlords to accept their authority.

Under Alauddin Khalji the state brought the assessment and collection of land revenue under its own control.

- The rights of the local chieftains to levy taxes were cancelled.
- They were also forced to pay taxes.
- The Sultan's administrators measured the land and kept careful accounts.
- Some of the old chieftains and landlords served the Sultanate as revenue collectors and assessors.

8: Describe the Delhi Sultanate in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Answer:

The Delhi Sultanate in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries:

- After the Tughluqs, the Sayyid and Lodi dynasties ruled from Delhi and Agra until 1526.
- By then, Jaunpur, Bengal, Malwa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and the entire south India had independent rulers. They had established flourishing states and prosperous capitals.
- This was also the period which saw the emergence of new ruling groups like the Afghans and the Rajputs.
- Some of the states established in this period were small but powerful and extremely well administered.

7MARKS QUESTIONS:

1: How did the territories of Delhi Sultanate expand from garrison town to empire? Explain the first, second and third phase of expansion.

Answer:

The expansion occurred during the reigns of Ghiyasuddin Balban, Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad Tughluq.

First Expansion:

The campaigns along the “internal frontier” of the Sultanate aimed at consolidating the hinterlands of the garrison towns. During these campaigns forests were cleared in the Ganga-Yamuna doab.

- The hunter-gatherers and pastoralists were expelled from their habitat.
- These lands were given to peasants and agriculture was encouraged.
- New fortresses and towns were set up to protect trade routes and to promote regional trade.

Second Expansion:

The second expansion occurred along the “external frontier” of the Sultanate.

- Military expeditions into southern India started during the reign of Alauddin Khalji.
- It culminated with Muhammad-bin-Tughluq.

- In their campaigns, Sultanate armies captured elephants, horses and slaves and carried away precious metals.

Third Expansion:

By the end of Muhammad-bin-Tughluq's reign, 150 years after humble beginnings, the armies of the Delhi Sultanate had marched across a large part of the subcontinent.

- They had defeated rival armies and seized cities.
- The Sultanate collected taxes from the peasantry and dispensed justice in its realm. But their control was not complete and effective over this vast territory.

2: Give an account of iqtadars or muqtis.

Answer:

The Khalji and Tughluq monarchs appointed military commanders as governors of territories of varying sizes.

These lands were called iqta and their holder was called iqtadar or muqti.

- Muqtis led military campaigns and maintained law and order in their iqtas.
- In exchange for their military services; the muqtis collected the revenues of their assignments as salary.
- They also paid their soldiers from these revenues.

Control over muqtis was most effective if their office was not inheritable and if they were assigned iqtas for a short period of time before being shifted.

- These harsh conditions of service were rigorously imposed during the reigns of Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad-bin-Tughluq.
- Accountants were appointed by the state to check the amount of revenue collected by the muqtis.
- Care was taken that the muqti collected only the taxes prescribed by the state.
- They could not keep soldiers beyond the required number.

3: What was the impact of the Mongol invasions on the Delhi Sultanate?

Answer:

Mongol invasions during Alauddin Khalji and Md. Tughluq's forced the two rulers to mobilise a large standing army. This posed a great administrative challenge.

Delhi was attacked twice during Alauddin Khalji's rule.

- He raised a large standing army and new garrison town named Siri.
- To feed the soldiers produce was collected as tax from lands between the Ganga and Yamuna. The tax was fixed at 50% of the yield.
- Soldiers were paid in cash. They further purchased their supplies from merchants.

- Prices were controlled. To do this market was surveyed. Merchant who did not sell at prescribed price were punished.

Sultanate under Muhammad Tughluq's was in the early years. Mongol army was defeated and Md. Tughluq was confident of his armed strength, resources and planned to attack Transoxiana.

- He raised a large army and emptied Delhi-i-Kuhna, oldest of four cities of Delhi for soldiers. ,
- Residents were sent to Daulatabad. ,,
- Produce was collected as tax to feed the soldiers. This coincided with famine
- Additional taxes' were levied for maintaining the army.
- Soldiers were paid in cash. He used 'token' currency made of cheap metal not gold or silver.
- People saved their gold and silver and paid taxes with this 'token' currency. This could be counterfeited easily.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE ON DELHI: 12TH
TO 15TH CENTURY**

Q1: Which of the following was NOT the king of the Rajput Dynasty?

- a) Tomaras
- b) Ananga Pala
- c) Prithviraj Chauhan
- d) Bahlul Lodi

Q2: Which ruler first established his capital at Delhi?

- a) Chauhans ruler
- b) Tomara Rajput ruler
- c) Turkish ruler
- d) Khalji dynasty

Q3: Who was the first slave king of Delhi Sultanate?

- a) Qutbuddin Aybak
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Raziyya Sultan
- d) Alauddin Khalji

Q4: Who was successor of Muhammad-bin Tughluq?

- a) Ghiyasuddin Tughluq
- b) Firuz Shah Tughluq
- c) Ibn Battuta
- d) None of these

Q5: What was the language of administration under the Delhi Sultans?

- a) Urdu
- b) Persian
- c) Hindi
- d) English

Q6: The position of standing facing Mecca during namaj is known as

- a) Khutba
- b) Qibla
- c) Sijdah
- d) Kharaj

Q7: In whose reign did the Sultanate reach its i farthest extent?

- a) Tomara Rajput
- b) Raziyya
- c) Alauddin Khalji
- d) Muhammad-bin Tughluq

Q8: Who was Ulema?

- a) A slave purchased for military service
- b) A ruler
- c) A scholar of Islamic learning
- d) An invader

Q9: Which Mughal emperor followed Sher Shah Suri's idea of administration?

- a) Humayun
- b) Akbar
- c) Babur
- d) Aurangzeb

Q10: Kharaj was a type of tax on

- a) houses
- b) cattle
- c) trade
- d) cultivation

MCQ's Answers:

<u>Q. NO'S</u>	<u>Answers</u>
Q1	D
Q2	B
Q3	A
Q4	B
Q5	B
Q6	B
Q7	D
Q8	C
Q9	B
Q10	D

FILL IN THE BLANKS ON DELHI:
12TH TO 15TH CENTURY

1: _____ dynasty ruled Delhi before the Tughluqs.

Answer: Khalji

2. Tarikh or Tawarikh were written in _____.

Answer: Persian

3. _____ was built by two rulers Qutbuddin Aybak and Iltutmish.

Answer: Qutb Minar

4. _____ is a sermon during Friday prayer in the Mosque.

Answer: Khutba

5. Leader of the Namaz is _____

Answer: Imam

6. Raziyya Sultan ruled from _____ to 1240 AD.
Answer: 1236

SUMMARY ON ON DELHI: 12TH TO 15TH CENTURY

Delhi 12th to 15th Century, we explore the history of Delhi from the 12th to the 15th century. We begin by understanding the powerful rulers who shaped Delhi's destiny. We learn about how the Delhi Sultans came to power and the important role they played in the region's history. The chapter also tells about the expansion of the Delhi Sultanate, explaining how it grew to encompass a vast territory. We also study the administrative systems implemented by the Khaljis and Tughluqs, which were instrumental in governing this expansive empire. As we move forward, we discover the developments during the 15th and 16th centuries in the Sultanates. This period saw significant changes in the political view of Delhi.