



# **GS FOUNDATION BATCH FOR CSE 2024**

**Ancient, Medieval & Culture - 07  
(Impact of Turkish Rule)**

### Impact of Turkish Rule

- Political Changes
- Military Changes
- Economic Changes
- Socio-Cultural Changes

#### Political Changes

- With the establishment of Turkish rule in India, the age of **feudalism ended** and a **strong central authority was established**.
- **Political unity** and integrity was introduced initially in North India and later over Peninsular India.
- A number of **new institutions and administrative practices** were introduced by the Turks.
- These systems witnessed **constant evolution**.

#### Position of the Sultan

- **Theoretically**, the Delhi sultanate was an **absolute centralised monarchy** with the Sultan at its centre.
- However in **practical** terms, the **level of despotism varied** from ruler to ruler.
  - Weaker Sultans such as Nasiruddin Mahmud and Feroz Shah Tughlaq had to share power with the clergy and nobility.
  - Strong sultans like Balban, Alauddin and Mohammed bin Tughlaq exercised absolute authority.
  - Further, the **Lodis** followed the Afghan theory of Kingship, under which, the king was considered to be the **first among equals**.
    - However, once again the position of the sultan under different rulers.
- **Rebellions** by provincial governors and strong military officials were a regular affair, even during the reign of strong sultans.
- **Wars of succession** were frequent as the Turks had no fixed rule of succession.

#### Iqta System

- The Iqta system was **introduced by Iltutmish**.
- Iqtas were **land revenue assignments** given to sultanate officials, commanders, noblemen and soldiers **in lieu of cash salary**. Iqta holders were known as Iqtadars.
- Iqta assignments were **temporary** and Iqtadars were **frequently transferred**.
- Further, they were **non-hereditary and non-transferable** in nature.
- The entire territory was divided into –
  - **Khalisa land** – Crown land, whose revenue went directly to the royal treasury.
  - **Paibaqi land** – land reserved to be distributed as Iqtas.

- **'Fawazil'** was the difference between the revenue collected and the expenditure incurred within the Iqta. It was remitted to the royal treasury.
- Turkish Sultans also made a number of **tax-free land grants** such as
  - **Inam** – given as reward for service to the Sultanate.
  - **Milk** – hereditary titles given to scholars and priestly class
  - **Waqf** – given to religious institutions such as mosques
  - **Idrar** – charitable grant
- The Iqta System also underwent significant change under different sultans.
  - **Ilututnish** - Iqtadars enjoyed tax exemptions.
  - **Balban** - In order to have better supervision of the income of the Iqta he appointed an officer 'Khwaja' in the Iqtas.
  - **Alauddin Khilji** - All revenue concessions and tax-free grants were abolished and all Iqtadars were required to pay tax at the normal rate
  - **Feroz Shah Tughlaq** - Iqtas became hereditary

#### Provincial and sub-provincial administration

- **Muqti/Wali** were large Iqtadars who acted as **provincial governors** with the responsibility of general administration, maintaining law and order, collecting revenue and maintaining groups.
- The units of the provincial administration were
  - **Shiq** – analogous to districts – under **Shiqdar** (administrative and military official)
  - **Parganas** – revenue unit headed by **Amil** (revenue officials)
  - **Gaon** – village headed by village headman known as **Khut** (Hindu) and **Muqaddam** (Muslim)
    - **Patwari** was the village accountant

#### Departments and Portfolio Administration

- **Ilututnish** introduced the **'Turkan-i-Chihalgani' / 'Chalisa'**, giving important duties of state to his most trustworthy and capable slaves.
  - However, after his death, the Chalisa became unruly and power hungry and began undermining the Sultan's authority.
- Thus, **Balban** disbanded the Chalisa and introduced the **portfolio system** of administration, under which different subjects of administration were organised into different departments. It became the backbone of the Sultanate administration.
- Different sultans introduced different departments.
  - **Balban**
    - Diwan-i-Wazir ——— Finance
    - Diwan-i-Arz ——— Military
    - Diwan-i-Risalat ——— Foreign affairs and Appeals

- Diwan-i-Insha ———— Royal Correspondence
- **Alauddin**
  - Diwan-i-Mustakhraj ——— Arrears
  - Diwan-i-Riyasat ———— Market Controls
- **Mohammed bin Tughlaq**
  - Diwan-i-Amir Kohi ———— Agriculture
- **Feroz Shah Tughlaq**
  - Diwan-i-Ishtiaq ———— Relief and rehabilitation
  - Diwan-i-Khairat ———— Charity
  - Diwan-i-Bandagan ——— Slaves

### Military Changes

- The Turks introduced new weapons such as the Persian short bow '**Navak**'. They also introduced the **iron horseshoe and iron stirrup**.
- New military strategies such as maintaining a **reserve force** and **feint attacks** during military engagements were also introduced.
- They revived the tradition of maintaining a **standing army** after a long period in the Indian subcontinent.
  - **Iltutmish** introduced the practice of maintaining royal bodyguards paid directly from the imperial treasury, called the **Sar-i-Jahandar**, this was the precursor to a standing army.
    - He also introduced the permanent cavalry called the **Hashm-i Qalb**.
  - **Balban** introduced a full-fledged **standing army** and created a new Department of military affairs called **Diwan-i-Arz**.
- **Allauddin** maintained a large standing army numbering over 3.5 lakh soldiers.
  - He also introduced the **decimal system** of military command.
    - Khan - commander of 10000 soldiers
    - Malik - commander of 1000 soldiers
    - Amir - commander of 100 soldiers
    - Sipahsalar - commander of 10 soldiers
    - Sharkheel - footsoldier
  - Instead of paying soldiers with Iqta assignments, he began giving them **cash salaries**.
  - He also introduced the practice of '**Dagh**' and '**Huliya/Chehra**' to maintain the quality of horses and troops.
- '**Dagh**' and '**Huliya/Chehra**' were **discarded under Feroz Shah Tughlaq**.

### Economic Changes

Contemporary Persian literature such as '**Khazain ul Futuh**' (Amir Khusro) '**Miftah ul Fuzala**' (Mohammed Daud) and contemporary Chinese sources of travellers such as **It Sing** inform us that the Turks introduced several new technologies which revolutionised the economy:

#### Textile

- **Superior ginning technique** was introduced to India from Persia.
- The Turks also brought the Persian Carding Bow '**Naddaf**'.
- The spinning wheel or '**Charkha**' introduced by the Turks replaces the traditional spindle and whorl.
- **Charkha with a handle** was introduced later.
- **Pit and treadle loom** replaced the traditional loom.
- The technique of **block printing** was introduced from Central Asia.

#### Paper Manufacturing

- Before the Turks, paper was imported into India and was extremely expensive.
- Gradually, paper manufacturing was brought to India from Central Asia under Turkish influence.
- Amir Khusro tells us that by the 14th century, it was so cheap that it was being used by sweet sellers to package their goods.

#### Irrigation

- The Turks brought the Persian water wheel '**Sakiya**' which replaced the 'Charsa' (rope and bucket) and 'Dhenkali' (lever) mechanisms.
- Gears were added to the Sakiya and it came to be known as the '**Rahat/ Arghatta**'. As a result, animal power could be used to lift water.

#### Navigation

- The Turks introduced the **Qutub Nama** (magnetic compass) to India.

#### Gunpowder

- They also brought gunpowder to India. However, during the Sultanate period, it was not used for warfare or mining. Rather, it was used for **pyrotechny**.

### Social-Cultural Changes

- Introduction of Turkish rule was accompanied by **Islam and Islamic culture**. At first, it was received with **hostility** and considered to be a **challenge to the indigenous way of life**.
  - Al-Biruni informs us that Hindus viewed Islam with suspicion primarily due to the **violent history of Islamic invasions**.

- The animosity also increased due to the policy of **forceful conversion** and **destruction of temples** followed by some rulers.
- Muslims and in fact all foreigners were referred to as '**Malechchas**'. Contact with them was deliberately avoided.
- On the other hand, the process of **assimilation** of the Indian and Islamic cultures went on simultaneously, leading to the emergence of the typical Indo-Islamic syncretic culture or '**Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb**' of the subcontinent.
  - The Bhakti and Sufi movements played an important role in this process of assimilation.
- **Caste and class relations** also underwent a **radical change** with the advent of Islam.
  - The **idea of equality** was especially attractive to the lower castes and untouchables.
  - It allowed them to **shed** their historical identities and the attached **stigma**.
  - It also allowed them to benefit from the **new economic opportunities** which had emerged under Turkish rule.
    - The revival of trade, lifting of restrictions on occupation, greater physical and social mobility, end of feudalism and the establishment of political unity with a strong centralised authority led to the emergence of **new economic groups** such as **artisans, craftsmen and traders**.
    - Many of them belong to the **hitherto marginalised sections** who had been trapped under forced subservience as agriculturalists.
- These classes formed the **core of the new urban population** and a **trade revolution** began occurring from the 12th century CE onwards.
- India traded extensively with the Islamic world, resulting in the emergence of new cities. This phase is regarded as India's **third urbanisation**.
- The Turks also introduced **Persian and Arabic**, which interacted with regional dialects to give birth to **Urdu/ Rekhta/ Hindustani**. Different versions of the language are spoken in almost all over the subcontinent.
- **Amir Khusro** was a pioneer in this field.
  - He was a prolific writer known for his **Diwans** (collection of short poems), **Masnavis** (long poems with rhyming couplets), **Khamsas** (5 epic poems composed in Masnavi form), **dramas, chronicles and Malfuzat** texts.
  - Some of his important compositions include:
    - **Qiran us Sadain** - historical masnavi about the meeting of Sultan Qaiqabad and his father Sultan Nasir-ud-din (Bughra Khan).
    - **Miftah ul Futuh** - an account of Jalaluddin Khilji's victories
    - **Khazain ul Futuh** - an account of Alauddin's victories
    - **Tughlaqnama** - rise of Ghiasuddin Tughlaq
    - **Nuh Siphir** - masnavi written in praise of Mubarak Shah Khilji
    - **Dewal Rani-Khizr Khan** - love story of Dewal Rani and Khizr Khan

- Chhap Tilak
- Hasht Bihisht

- He also introduced a new form of Persian poetry called the '**Sabak-i-Hind**'.
- Great progress was also visible in the development of **Hindustani music**.
  - Amir **Khusro** is credited with introducing the **Khyal and Tarana** styles of Hindustani music.
  - He's also regarded as the inventor of the **Tabla**.
- The Turks also introduced the **Rabab and Sarangi**.
- Music also witnessed development within the Sufi tradition, especially **Qawwali** (devotional songs).
- With the introduction of Turkish rule, **new festivals, art forms, architectural traditions, fashion, and cuisine** were introduced to India. Gradually, they were assimilated to create a syncretic tradition.
- The Turks also introduced **historiography** to India. Thus, the history of the Delhi Sultanate has been scientifically and chronologically recorded by numerous Persian authors.
- '**Shahnama**' of **Firdausi**
- '**Kitab ul Hind**' of **Al-Biruni**
- '**Tarikh-i-Nasiri**' of **Siraj** covers the history of Islamic rule up to the reign of **Naseeruddin Mahmud**.
- The '**Rahela**' is an Arabic travelogue written by the Moroccan traveller **Ibn Batuta**. It gives important details about the reign of **Mohammed bin Tughlaq**.
- **Ziauddin Barani** wrote.
  - '**Tarikh-i-Firuzshahi**', a chronicle of **Feroz Shah's** Reign which contains important details about the policies of previous Sultans as well.
  - '**Fatwa-i-Jahandari**', a work on statecraft written in the form of advice to the king, in which **Barni** introduces the concept of the '**Ideal Muslim King**' and discusses his qualities. He further concludes that **Feroz Shah Tughlaq** had these qualities.
- **Afif** continued the '**Tarikh-i-Firuzshahi**' **Barni's** death. His work includes an account of **Amir Tumor's** sack of Delhi.
- The '**Tarikh-i-Mubarakshahi**' of **Sirhindi** covers the history of the **Sayyid Dynasty**.