

Chapter – 3: Delhi – 12th to 15th Century

- Chapter 2 – Kaveri delta – centre of large kingdoms – no mention of Delhi
- Delhi – became imp. city – 12th century
- Delhi – 1st time capital – Tomar Rajputs – defeated by Chauhans of Ajmer – mid-12th century
- Under Tomars and Chauhans – became imp. commercial centre
- Many rich Jain merchants – lived there – constructed temples – coins minted here – *dehliwal* – wide circulations
- Delhi – controlling vast areas – under Delhi Sultanate – 13th century
- Delhi Sultans – built cities – areas of Delhi – Delhi-i-Kuhna, Siri, Jahanpannah
 - Rajput Dynasties
 - Tomars – early 12th century-1165
 - Ananga Pala – 1130-1145
 - Chauhans – 1165-1192
 - Prithviraj Chauhan – 1175-1192
 - Early Turkish Rulers (1206-1290)
 - Qutbuddin Aibak – 1206-1210
 - Shamsuddin Iltutmish – 1210-1236
 - Raziyya – 1236-1240
 - Ghiyasuddin Balban – 1266-1287
 - Khalji Dynasty (1290-1320)
 - Jalaluddin Khalji – 1290-1296
 - Alauddin Khalji – 1296-1316
 - Tughluq Dynasty (1320-1414)
 - Ghiyasuddin Tughluq – 1320-1324
 - Muhammad Tughluq – 1324-1351
 - Firoz Shah Tughluq – 1351-1388
 - Sayyid Dynasty – 1414-1421
 - Khizr Khan – 1414-1421
 - Lodi Dynasty (1451-1526)
 - Bahlul Lodi – 1451-1489

Understanding Delhi under the Sultans

- History – *tarikh* / *tawarikh* – Persian – language of Delhi Sultans
- Authors of *tawarikh* – learned men, poets, administrators, secretaries, courtiers – writers as well as advisers to kings
- Additional details –
 - Authors – lived in cities (Delhi) – not in villages
 - Wrote for Sultans – expecting rewards
 - Advised rulers – preserve social order – based on **birthright** and **gender uniqueness**
- 1236 – Sultan Iltutmish's daughter – Raziyya – new Sultan
- Minhaj-i-Siraj – believed – more qualified than her brothers – not ready – queen as a ruler
- Nobles – not happy – removed from throne – 1240
- Minhaj-i-Siraj – believed – Raziyya as ruler – against God's social order – men greater than women

- Other women rulers –
 - Rudramadevi (1262-1289) – Kakatiya dynasty – Warangal, Andhra Pradesh – changed her name on official records
 - Didda (980-1003) – Kashmir – title taken from ‘didi’ – elder sister

A Closer Look – Administration under the Khaljis and Tughluqs

- Control vast kingdom – Delhi Sultanate – reliable governors and administrators
- Delhi Sultans, (especially Iltutmish) – trusted – special slaves – military service – *bandagan* (Persian)
- Trained – handle – imp. political offices – depend on master – Sultan can trust them
- Khaljis and Tughluqs – used *bandagan* – raised children from lower classes – called as **clients** – appointed as generals and governors
- This introduced – political instability
- Slaves and clients – loyal to masters – not to their heirs
- Accession (change) of monarch- conflict between new and old nobles
- Training of lower class people – shocked elites (higher classes)
- Authors – Persian *tawarikh* – criticized Delhi Sultans – appointing lower classes to higher offices
- Like earlier sultans – Khalji and Tughluq – appointed military leaders – governors – territories – different sizes
- These lands – *iqta* – land holder – *iqtdar* or *muqti*
- Duty – lead campaigns (wars) – maintain law and order in *iqtas*
- Salary – revenues from land
- Control over them – easy – offices not inheritable – assigned *iqtas* – short period of time
- Hard conditions – imposed (applied) by – Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad Tughluq
- Accountant appointed – revise the amount of revenue collected
- *Muqtis* only collected allowed taxes and not more – ensured by state – kept required number of soldiers
- Delhi Sultans – expanded control – forced chieftans (*samantas*) – rich landlords – accept their control
- Alauddin Khalji – state controlled tax collection
- Local rulers – cannot levy taxes – have to pay tax as well
- Sultan’s administrators – kept records
- Some – chieftans and landlords – served Sultanate – revenue collectors
- 3 types of taxes –
 - On cultivation – *kharaj* – 50 % of produce
 - On cattle
 - On houses
- Large parts – remain outside control – Delhi Sultanate
- Difficult to control – far away states – Bengal from Delhi
- After taking control of South India – whole area – separate
- Gangetic plains – forested areas – Sultanate cannot take control
- Local chieftains – ruled these areas
- Sultanate – force control – temporary
- Mongols – Genghis Khan – invaded Transoxiana – north-east Iran – 1219
- Attacks on Delhi Sultanate – started after it

- Mongol attacks increased during – Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad Tughluq
- Both rulers – large part of army – Delhi – huge administrative challenge

The Sultanate in the 15th and 16th Centuries

- After Tughluqs – Sayyid and Lodi dynasties – Delhi to Agra – by 1526
- Jaunpur, Bengal, Malwa, Gujarat, Rajasthan, entire south India – independent rulers – wealthy and big states and capitals
- New ruling groups – Afghans and Rajputs
- Some states – small but powerful and well-administered
- Sher Shah Sur (1540-1545) – started career – manager of small territory for uncle – Bihar – challenged and defeated – Mughal emperor Humayun (1530-1540, 1555-1556)
- Captured Delhi – established his dynasty
- Ruled for 15 years (1540-1555) – introduced administration – improved elements of Alauddin Khalji's administration
- This administration – became ideal – Akbar (1556-1605) – created Mughal Empire