

CBSE Class –VII Social Science
NCERT Solutions
History Chapter 3
The Delhi Sultans

Q1: Which ruler first established his or her capital at Delhi?

Ans: Ananga Pala of the Tomara dynasty first established his capital at Delhi.

Q2: What was the language of administration under the Delhi Sultans?

Ans: Persian was the language of administration under the Delhi Sultans.

Q3: In whose reign did the Sultanate reach its farthest extent?

Ans: In Muhammad Tughluq's reign, the Sultanate reached its farthest extent. Under his reign, the armies of the Sultanate had defeated rival armies and seized cities, and consequently, the kingdom of the Delhi Sultanate was vast.

Q4: From which country did Ibn Battuta travel to India?

Ans: Ibn Battuta travelled to India from Morocco.

Q5: 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 the salaries of the soldiers came from the revenue collected from the peasants, and peasants could pay the revenue only when they were prosperous and happy. Hence, the military commanders promoted justice and honest governance.

Q6: What is meant by the "internal" and "external" frontiers of the Sultanate?

Ans: "Internal" frontiers of the Sultanate consisted of the 'hinterland' of the garrison towns. During these campaigns, forests were cleared in the Ganga-Yamuna doab and hunter gatherers and pastoralists expelled from their habitat.

The "external" frontiers refer to the unconquered territories especially in the southern parts of the subcontinent. Military expeditions into southern India started during the reign of Alauddin Khalji and ended with the reign of Muhammad Tughluq.

Q7: 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: 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. The steps that were taken to ensure that the muqtis performed their duties were:

1. The duties of the muqtis were to lead military campaigns and maintain law and order in their iqtas. In exchange for their military services, the muqtis collected the revenues of their assignments as salary. Their soldiers were paid salaries from the revenues.
2. 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.
3. The conditions of working were harsh and were imposed on the muqtis.
4. 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 and that he kept the required number of soldiers.

The muqtis might have wanted to defy the orders of the Sultans because of the harsh conditions imposed on them by the Sultans.

Q8: What was the impact of the Mongol invasions on the Delhi Sultanate?

Ans: The Mongol invasions affected the Delhi Sultanate in the following ways:

1. Both Alauddin Khalji and Muhammad Tughluq raised large standing armies against the Mongols.
2. Alauddin constructed a new garrison town named Siri for his soldiers while Muhammad Tughluq emptied Dehli-i-Kunha of its residents and the soldiers garrisoned there.
3. In order to feed the soldiers, large taxes were imposed on farmers.
4. Alauddin chose to pay his soldiers salaries in cash rather than iqtas. His administrative measures were effective due to cheap prices and efficient supplies of goods in the market. Muhammad Tughluq created a token currency to pay his soldiers. His administrative

reign was a disaster and he disbanded his army.

Alauddin was able to withstand the threat of Mongol invasions. Muhammad Tughluq's administrative measures failed, however, he at least planned to attack the Mongols which was a first in the history of the Delhi Sultanate.

Q9: Do you think the authors of tawarikh would provide information about the lives of ordinary men and women?

Ans: The authors of tawarikh were learned men: secretaries, administrators, poets and courtiers. They recounted events and advised rulers on governance, emphasising the importance of just rule. The authors of tawarikh did not provide information about ordinary men and women because:

1. The authors of tawarikh lived in cities (mainly Delhi) and hardly ever in villages.
 2. They often wrote their histories for Sultans in the hope of rich rewards.
 3. These authors advised rulers on the basis of birthright and gender distinctions. Their ideas were not shared by everybody.
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Q10: Raziyya Sultan was unique in the history of the Delhi Sultanate. Do you think women leaders are accepted more readily today?

Ans: Raziyya Sultan was unique in the history of the Delhi Sultanate based on her ability as an effective leader of the Delhi Sultanate. Being a woman, she was not accepted as a ruler at the time.

Women leaders are accepted more readily today as we live in a world of equality for both men and women. Women are provided with adequate opportunities to excel. For example, Indira Gandhi and Margaret Thatcher are examples of political leaders who have been accepted for their effective leadership. Moreover, there is scope for positive growth for women leaders in future.

Q11: 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. They also wanted to cut down forests for creating protected

territories against enemies and promoting trade routes.

Today, deforestation occurs due to creation of roads and railways and promotion of industries. Hence, some of the reasons are the same for deforestation, then and now.