

A green tractor with yellow wheels is pulling a blue trailer filled with harvested grain. In the background, a combine harvester is visible, and the field is golden-brown under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

M A HISTORY-SEM 2

HY 222 INDIAN HISTORY -11



Module -5 SULTANATE OF DELHI

- The period from 1206 to 1526 has been called as the period of Delhi Sultanate. During this period, India was ruled by a number of Turkish Sultans who belonged to the Ilbari Turkish clan. These Sultans were also called Mamluks. Five dynasties ruled over Delhi during this period They are the Slave dynasty, Khilji dynasty, Tughlaq dynasty, the Sayyid dynasty and Lodi dynasty. Except the Lodis all other Delhi sultans were Turkish in origin. The Lodis were Afghans.



Introduction

- Though the Sultanate made some economic improvements in the provinces, their most notable achievement was holding off Mongol invasion and unifying Northern India in the process.
- The Sultanate ushered in a period of Indian cultural renaissance. As a result of the fusion of "Indo-Muslim" cultures new developments occurred in architecture, music, literature, religion and clothing. It is a fact that the Urdu language was born during this period as a result of the intermingling of the local speakers of Sanskritic Prakrits with immigrants speaking Persian, Turkic and Arabic under the Muslim rulers. The Delhi Sultanate is the only Indo-Islamic empire to have enthroned one of the few female rulers in India, Raziya Sultana.



Administration of the Sultanate

- The policy of the rulers of the Delhi sultanate was largely influenced by their religion, Islam. Their policies were influenced by the Ulemas or Muslim intellectuals. In theory the Delhi sultanate was a theocracy. It was based on Islamic law as given in Quran and the Hadis expounded by the Ulemas.
- The government established by the Turks was a compromise between Islamic political ideas and institutions on the one hand and the existing Rajput system of government on the other. Consequently many elements of the Rajput political system with or without changes became part and parcel of the Turkish administration in India. Most of the Sultans kept up the pretence of regarding the caliph as the legal sovereign while they themselves were the caliph's representatives. Most of them included the name of the caliph in the Khutba and the Sikka and adopted titles indicative of their subordination to the caliph.



Central Government

- The Sultan dominated the central government as he was the legal head of the state and acted as the chief executive and the highest court of appeal.
- Though he owed nominal allegiance to the Abbasid Caliphs, yet for all practical purposes, he was totally independent. The chief responsibilities of the Sultan were the protection of the state, the settlement of disputes, the defence of the realm of Islam, the enforcement of laws, the collection of taxes, and the welfare of people. The nobility, civil services and ulema supported the Sultan. In most cases, a predecessor either nominated the Sultan, or he had to fight a war of succession.



Central Government

- The Delhi Sultans could make civil and political regulations for public welfare. Khutba and sikka were recognised as important attributes of sovereignty. The khutba was the formal sermon following the congregational prayer on Fridays wherein the name of the Sultan was mentioned as the head of the community. Coinage was the ruler's prerogative : his name was inscribed on the coins (sikka).
- With the exceptions Alauddin Khalji and Mubarak Shah Khalji, all other sultans styled themselves as deputies of Caliph with the title such as **Nasir-i-amir Ur Momin** -assistant of the leader of the faithful or Yamin ul Khalifa i.e. the right hand man of Caliph.



Central Government

- **Wazir:** The most important post next to the Sultan was that of the Prime Minister, or the 'Wazir'. He was in charge of the entire fiscal administration of the realm and all matters relating to income and expenditures. His department was known as the Diwan-i-Wazir.
- **Musharraf-i-Mumalik:** This post was equal to the present-day Accountant General.
- **Mustauf-i-Mumalik:** This post was equal to the present day Auditor General. The duties involved auditing the accounts.
- **Sadr-us-Sadar:** His role was to deal with religious affairs and immunities to scholars and men of piety.
- **Munshi-i-Mumalik:** This post dealt with the entire state correspondence.



Central Government

- The revenue structure of the empire followed the Islamic traditions. The state depended on agricultural produce.
- There were various sources of income of the Delhi Sultans. They are (1) **KHARAJ (LAND TAX)**- This was the mainstay of the finance of the government. It was charged from Muslims and non-Muslims ranging from $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ under various reigns (2) **KHAMUS (1/5 OF THE WAR SPOILS)**- It also includes the products of mines. According to Islamic law, $\frac{1}{5}$ of the booty goes to state and rest $\frac{4}{5}$ to soldiers (3) **JIZYA**- This was the religious tax on non-Muslims which they had to pay for their protection (4) **ZAKAT**- This was a religious tax which was imposed only on the Muslims collected for the maintenance of the poor Muslims (5) **IRRIGATION TAX**- It was imposed by Firoz Tughlaq as $\frac{1}{10}$ of the product on the peasants who used the water of the canals developed by the state. Ala ud Din also imposed two new taxes i.e. house tax and grazing tax.



Military administration

- The army was administered by Ariz-i-Mumalik,. His office maintained the descriptive roll of each soldier. He was to assign different tasks to the soldiers and also was responsible for the transfers of military personnel. Even officers of the court who held military ranks received salaries from his office. He was not the Commander-in-Chief of the army but was its Collector General. He exercised great influence on the state.



Judicial Administration



- The Sultan used to sit at least twice a week to hear the complaints against the officials of the state. Qazi-i-Mumalik used to sit with the Sultan to give him legal advice. Decisions were made according to the Shariah. Cases of non-Muslims were decided according to their own religious laws.

A green tractor with yellow wheels is pulling a blue trailer in a field. The tractor is moving from left to right, leaving tracks in the dry, brownish soil. In the background, there is a small white building and a line of trees under a clear sky.

Provincial administration

- During sultanate period, Sultanate was divide into Iqtas (regions). The head of iqtas has various names including Muqti or Wali or Nazim. The main duty of the Muqtis was to maintain the peace, establishment and extension of authority of government and recovery of the state dues. The governors were in charge of big or more important provinces exercised wider power.



Local Administration

- Local administration was vague and undefined and basically traditional system. The provinces were divided into 6 parts headed by shiqdars with main functions to maintain law and order and protect people against oppression of zamindars and had to perform military obligation. The shiqs were further divided into parganas and had different officials.



Economy of Delhi Sultanate

- ❖ Iqta System- Iqtadari System was a combined mechanism of exploring tax and distribution of these revenues to the ruling class. The term Iqtadari system was coined by Nizamul Mulk to maintain smooth administration of the Abbassid Empire.
- ❖ The sultans of Delhi Sultanate like Balban, Iltutmish, Allauddin Khilji etc effectively used the Iqtadari system for their centralization of power.
- ❖ The Iqtadari system did not confer any ownership in land and it was subject to transfer.



Economy of Delhi Sultanate

- The iqtadar had two functions (a) to collect the revenues and distribution among the soldiers (b) It was a unique blend of expansion and consolidation. The **iqta** was a territorial assignment and its holder was called the **muqti** or the **wali**.
- The Iqtas were of 4 types:
- Iqta- It was administrative cum military grants
- Iqta-i-Tamlik- Iqta for collection of revenue
- Iqta-i-Istighatal-An Iqta of stipends
- Iqta-i-Waqf-Iqta for charitable purposes.

A green tractor with yellow wheels is shown in a field, pulling a blue trailer. The tractor is positioned in the lower left corner of the image. The field is dry and yellowish-brown, with a line of green trees in the background under a clear blue sky.

Economy of Delhi Sultanate

- The territory whose revenues were directly collected for the Sultan's own treasury was designated as **khalisa**. Iltutmish is credited for standardizing the coinage of the Delhi Sultanate. The main coins were tanka and jital but some smaller currencies were also in circulation. Muhammad bin Tughlaq introduced a coin of copper and brass alloy and reckoned it at the value of a silver tanka. These coins for the first time carried an inscription in Persian.



Economy of Delhi Sultanate

- Hindus occupied an important role in foreign, as in domestic, trade, although foreign Muslim merchants, known as *khurasani*, also had a large share of it. An organized class of brokers handled the business on the coast and inside the country. The imports consisted mainly of certain luxury items for the upper classes, and a general supply of all kinds of horses and mules, in which India was deficient.

Economy of Delhi Sultanate

- The exports included large quantities of food-grains and cloth. Among the agricultural products were wheat, millet, rice, pulses, oilseeds, scents, medicinal herbs, and sugar. Cotton cloth and other textiles were especially important items of export, particularly to Southeast Asia and East Africa, although some reached Europe.
- Many industries of considerable size and importance developed during this period, the most important of which were textiles, various items of metal work, sugar, indigo, and in certain localities, paper.
- These industries were mainly privately owned, but the government equipped and managed large-scale karkhanas, or factories, for supplying its requirements. The royal factories at Delhi sometimes employed as many as four thousand weavers for silk alone.





Economy of Delhi Sultanate

- Some major towns mentioned in the contemporary sources are Delhi, Multan, Anhilwara (Patan), Cambay, Kara, Lakhnauti and Daulatabad. Lahore was a big town but decayed after the Mongol invasion in the 13th century.
- Two types of merchants are mentioned in the sources of the Delhi Sultanate: the karwanis or nayaks and Multanis.

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Economy of Delhi Sultanate

- Economic Reforms of Alauddin Khilji (Market Reforms)- His economic reforms were hailed as the marvel of medieval times. The external danger from Mongols and the internal danger of rebellions compelled him to initiate reforms.
- Firstly he analysed the causes of the dangers as (a) neglect of state affairs by the Sultan (b) excessive use of wine (c) intimate relations among nobles (d) abundance of wealth.
- The two aspects of Alauddin's economic reforms were: (a) Reorganization of the land-revenue system and (b) Control of the market price of the articles of daily use.
- Alauddin's land-revenue reforms aimed at establishing direct relationship between state and the peasants. Also he strove (tried) for increasing the income of the state.



Economy of Delhi Sultanate

- Market Regulations of Alauddin- The steps taken by him are the following: (a) regulated the prices of grain cloth other necessities of life. (b) fixed the prices of these basic commodities far below the usual market rates (c) fought inflation and reduced the cost of living.
- The Reasons for market regulations are the following: (a) maintenance of huge permanent army without unduly straining the resources of the state. (b) to cheapen the cost of the maintenance of his powerful military establishment (c) to achieve the economic stability to get rid of social injustice.

Economy of Delhi Sultanate

- The steps taken by him are the following:
(a) raised large stocks of grain by collecting its revenue in kind from khalisah lands and from the territories held by vassals (b) restriction on purchase of grain from the tillers of soil except for few permitted merchants (c) all merchants in Delhi were required to register themselves in the office of shana-i-mandi (d) advances were given to those merchants who did not possess enough capital of their own (e) the merchants had to sell all commodities at the fixed rates and no deviation was permitted and stood for the elimination of dalal/middle man.





Economy of Delhi Sultanate

- The strict rules imposed by him for ensuring the success of market reforms are the following: (a) all kinds of speculation and black marketing were rigorously put down (b) merchants were not to hoard grains or other articles, but must sell them at demand (c) notable persons, nobles, officers and other well to do people had to get permits from the officer of sahan-i-mandi, before purchasing costly articles from market (d) if merchant failed to carry out orders and sold commodity underweight, the same amount of flesh was cut off from his body.
- The following are the results of the market regulations: (a) corn ,cloth and other things became very cheap (b) prices of horses, cattle, maid servants and slaves fell considerably (c) the cost of living remained cheap and almost constant (d) the prices fixed for once were never altered during his rule of 14 years.

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Society of Delhi Sultanate

- During the reign of the Delhi Sultanate, the society was divided into different sections. After the advent of the Muslims, the society constituted of the foreign Muslims, the Indian Muslims and the Hindus. Among them, foreign Muslims constituted the ruling class. The Hindus also formed the part of the society at that period and were divided among themselves on the basis of castes.
- The caste-system of the Hindus affected the Muslims, especially the Indian Muslims. They continued to maintain divisions among themselves on the basis of their previous castes.
- The slave system was prevalent among the Muslims and the Hindus and slaves were sold and purchased in open market. The slaves were treated well though their property and lives were the property of their masters. The slaves of the Muslims were better off as compared to the slaves of the Hindus. The Sultans and nobles kept slaves in huge numbers, provided education and gave them training and opportunity to rise in their lives so that many of them rose to the position of prominence in the state.



Society of Delhi Sultanate

- The women in the Hindu society enjoyed respect in the family and participated in the religious ceremonies. They received education and many of them had acquired scholarly fame. Yet, in general their status had deteriorated in the society and they suffered from many social evils. There was no widow remarriage. Sati system existed. The Purdah system and child marriages adversely affected the education and position of women in the society. Devadasi system was another social evil which was prevalent among the Hindus. Muslim women did not enjoy a respectable status in the society. Polygamy was extensively prevalent among the Muslims.
- Generally the Hindus were vegetarians and the Muslims were non vegetarians. Among the Muslims, the Sufis, or the people who were under their influence avoided eating meat.
- There was a marked progress in the use of clothing and ornaments. The people engaged themselves in all sorts of entertainments. Different sports such as hunting, duels among men, fighting among animals, horse-polo etc. were their usual entertainments. Fairs and religious festivals were also common among both Hindus and the Muslims.

Nobles under Delhi Sultanate

- The nobles enjoyed great power under the sultanate. A noble began his life as a slave and through gradual promotion they assume the position of Khan and Amir. There was no fixed rules for promotion but depend upon the wishes of the sultan. There were Turkish nobles and non-Turkish nobles. Ala-ud-din ignored the racial heredity of the nobles. The period of Firoz Shah saw the harmonious blending of Sultan and nobles.
- The nobles enjoyed a highest standard of living. Itutmish set up forty powerful Turkish slaves known as Turkhan-i- Chahalghani or Chalisa. The nobles became powerful at the time of weak kings. Balban, Alauddin Khilji and Muhammad Tughlaq tried to minimise the power of the nobles. The nobles were a heterogeneous group with Turks, Arabs, Afghans, Persians, Egyptians, Mughals and Indians.
- The nobles enjoyed a predominant position in the sultanate and acted as administrators, generals and some times King makers. Drinking and gambling became the common weakness of the nobles. Ala-ud-din Khilji suppressed the nobles with an iron hand. But they regained their power under his successors. Through out the sultanate the relation between the crown and the nobles depended upon the personality and character of the sultans.





Ulemas under Delhi Sultanate

- Ulemas were Muslim theologians and intellectuals. They enjoyed major role in the sultanate because it was a theocratic state. The Ulemas were the commentators of religion. Ulemas acted as the advisors of the sultans. They got land as the gifts of the sultans. Ala-ud-din Khilji minimized the power of the Ulemas. The Ulemas were clergymen, teachers and judges. They enjoyed powers as judicial officers. Some of them were teachers.
- Except Ala-ud-din Khilji and Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq, all the sultans consulted the Ulemas in the administrative and religious matters. The Ulemas were learnt men. But they were not administrators or politicians. Hence their approach to state problems were narrow and limited. As a result many sultans faced troubles when they sought the advice of the Ulemas.

Slaves under Delhi Sultanate

- Slaves were an important feature of the royal household. Alauddin Khalji owned 50,000 slaves, while Feroz Tughluq is reputed to have had 1.80.000 slaves. During his reign, a separate department of slaves (diwan-i bandagan) was set up. The slaves were used for personal service and acted as body-guards. There was a large slave market at Delhi.





Thank You
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