

The Delhi Sultans

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

Answer: Ananga Pala (Tomaras) of the Rajput Dynasty first established his capital at Delhi.

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

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

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

Answer: During the reign of Muhammad Tughluq, the Sultanate reached its farthest extent and had marched across a large part of the subcontinent. They defeated the rival armies and seized several cities. The Sultanate also collected taxes from the peasantry and dispensed justice in its realm.

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

Answer: Ibn Battuta travelled to India from Morocco, Africa.

Q5. According to the "circle of justice", why was it important for military commanders to keep the interests of the peasantry in mind?

Answer: According to the "circle of justice", it was important for military commanders to take into account the interests of the peasants as the salaries of the military commanders came from the revenue received from the peasants. But the farmers were able to pay their revenue when they were prosperous and happy. Thus military commanders promoted justice and honest rule.

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

Answer: The "internal" frontiers of the Sultanate means the consolidation of the hinterlands of the garrison towns. During these campaigns, forests were cleared in the Ganga-Yamuna doab and hunter-gatherers and pastoralists were expelled from their habitat and these lands were handed over to the peasants. They also promoted regional trade through the establishment of new fortresses and garrison towns. The "external" frontiers refer to unrelated territories, particularly in the southern parts of the subcontinent. The military campaign in southern India began during the reign of Alauddin Khilji and ended with the rule of Muhammad Mughal.

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?

Answer: Muqtis or iqtadar was a military commander appointed by Khilji and Tughlaq.

Monarchs as governors of regions of various sizes. These lands were called iqta. The duties of a Muktis were as follows:

- a. To lead military campaigns and to maintain law and order in their iqtas.
- b. Muqtis had to collect the revenue of their work in the form of salaries in return for their military services and to pay their soldiers from these revenues.
- c. The conditions of working were harsh and were imposed on the muqtis.
- d. 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 Mukti probably wanted to disobey the Sultan's orders because of the harsh conditions imposed on them by the Sultans.

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

Answer: Mongol invasions on the Delhi Sultanate had increased during the reign of Alauddin Khilji and in the early years of Muhammad Tughlaq's rule. The dynasties of both Alauddin Khilji and Muhammad Tughlaq built a new city for their soldiers and collected taxes from the land between the Ganges and the Yamuna to feed the soldiers. Alauddin chose to pay his soldiers in cash instead of lands, while Muhammad Tughlaq used a token currency made of cheap metals.