

The Delhi Sultans

The Arab invasions led to the establishment of the Delhi sultanate. This flourished for about three centuries. The Delhi sultanate consisted of: Aibak (Slave), Khilji, Tuglaq, Sayyids and the Lodis.

Finding out about the Delhi Sultans

- The information on the Delhi Sultans is derived from coins, inscriptions, and architecture.
- Tawarikh was the official administrative under the Delhi Sultans.
- Raziyya became sultan in the year 1236.

Expansion of Delhi sultanate

- Mongol invasions from Afghanistan threatened Delhi's authority.
- During the reign of Ghiyasuddin Balban, the sultanate consolidation was considered.
- The kingdom was further expanded under the rule of Muhammad Tughluq and Alauddin Khalji.
- The initial set of campaigns was under the "internal frontier" of centralizing the hinterlands of the garrison.
- The second wave of proliferation was under the "external frontier" of the sultanate.

Consolidation under the Khaljis and Tughlaqs

- Both the Khaljis and Tughlaqs monarchies appointed military commanders as territory governors for different size territories which were known as iqta. The holder of iqta was referred to as muqti or iqtadar.
- Major parts of the subcontinent were not under the control of the Sultans, local chieftains ruled in these regions.
- Leaders like Alauddin Khilji and Muhammad Tughluq could periodically force soldiers in these areas for a short duration.
- Genghis Khan and his Mongolian subjects invaded Transoxiana in

1219.

- The Mongolian attacks on Delhi significantly increased under the rule of Muhammad Tughluq.

Sultanates of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries

- Lodi, Tughlaqs, and Sayyid dynasties ruled from Delhi to Agra until 1526.
- Jaunpur, Malwa, Rajasthan, Bengal, Gujarat, and southern India were under independent rulers.
- This period also witnessed the rise of new ruling groups like Rajputs and the Afghans.
- Sher Shah Suri commenced his career as the administrator of a small territory in Bihar and eventually defeated Humayun, the Mughal emperor.

Important Questions and Answers

1. State the crucial leaders that ruled Delhi

Ans: Tughluq Dynasty- Ghiyasuddin, Muhammad, and Firoz Shah Tughluq

Lodi Dynasty- Bahlul Lodi, Sikander Lodhi Khalil Dynasty- Alauddin and Jalaluddin Khalji Sayyid Dynasty- Khizr Khan

2. Write about the Woman rulers

Ans:

- Rudrama Devi of Warangal changed her name on the inscription and pretended to be a man to rule.
- Didda of Kashmir gained her title from the term that originated from the word Didi which was given by her subjects. According to Kalhana, Didda was the daughter of Maharaja, of the Lohara dynasty (1003 CE – 1320 CE)

3. What is a Masjid? How is it utilized?

Ans:

- Masjid is a Mosque in the Arabic language.
- It is a place where Muslims pray to Allah
- In a congregational mosque, all Muslims read their prayers together in a common area.
- Members of this congregation select the most respected male as their leader (imam) for the prayer rituals.
- During the prayer, all Muslims mandatorily stand facing Mecca. In India, this direction is to the west.
- Delhi Sultans built several beautiful mosques in cities all over the subcontinent.

4. Why was Delhi not in the limelight until the 12th century?

Ans: Throughout the 7th to 12th century, several regions, including the Kaveri delta, were defined as significant kingdoms' centers. Due to this, there was zero mention of Delhi. It only became well-known after the 12th century.

5. Which are the Rajput dynasties that were the rulers of the 12th century?

Ans: Prithviraj Chauhan of the Chauhan dynasty, along with Angala Pala of the Tomar dynasties were the most noteworthy Rajput rulers of the 12th century.

6. List the fundamental rulers of the slave dynasty.

Ans: The military general, Qutbuddin Aibak of Muhammad Ghori started the Slave Dynasty. This was further regulated by Raziya, the first woman sultan, Iltutmish, and Balban.