

UNIT – III THE DELHI SULTANATE

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INTRODUCTION

Delhi's history begins with the onset of the Delhi Sultanate in the 12th century. The Delhi Sultanate lasted in India from 1206 to 1526 AD. This period saw the Muslim invasions into India. These invasions resulted in the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate with Delhi as their capital.

 <p>India</p>	 <p>New Delhi</p> <p>INDIA</p>
<p>In order to introduce the topic the teacher would ask the students to study the world map and locate India and there after study the map of India and locate Delhi</p>	
<p>How do we know about the Delhi Sultans?</p> <p>Besides inscriptions, coins and monuments, there are valuable 'histories' called 'Tarikh' or 'Tawarikh' which give us details about the Sultans of Delhi. These were written in Persian which was the language of administration under the Sultans.</p> <p>The authors of 'Tawarikh' were learned men, who were also the advisors to the rulers. They lived in cities (mainly Delhi). These authors often wrote their histories for Sultans in the hope of rich rewards.</p> <p>Some of the literary sources are :ZiauddinBarani'sTarikh-i-FerozShahi, Amir Khusrau's Miftah-ul-Futuh, Minhaj-i-Sirja'sTabaqat-i-Nasiri.</p>	

The Slave dynasty	The Khilji dynasty	The Tughlaq dynasty	The Sayyids	The Lodi dynasty
1206 – 1290	1290 – 1320	1320 – 1414	1414 – 1451	1451 – 1526

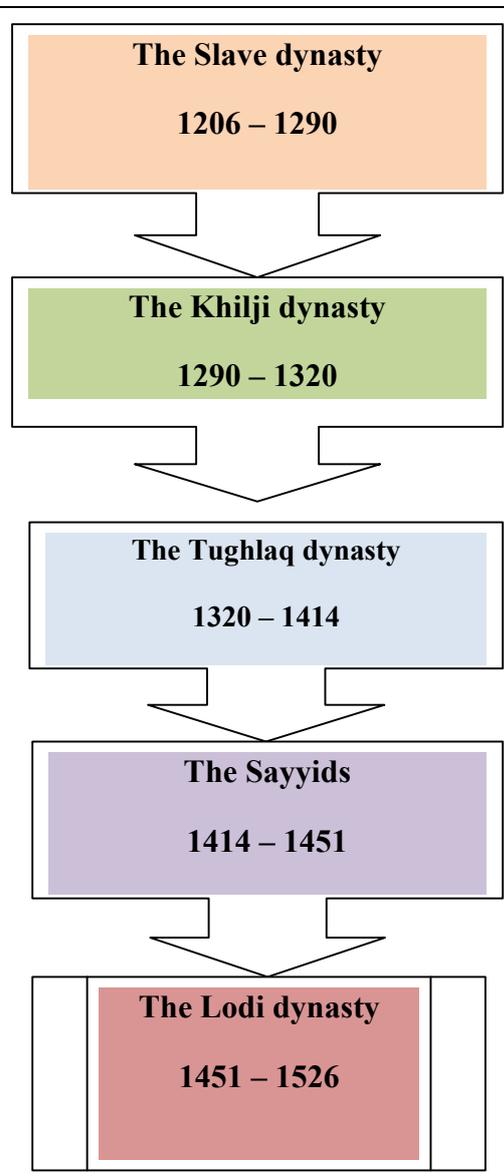
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The causes that led to the establishment of the Delhi sultanate:

The establishment of the Delhi Sultanate began with the invasion of Muhammad Ghori in India. He conquered Ghazni and established his Ghorid dynasty at Ghor in Afghanistan in the twelfth century. Unlike Mahmud of Ghazni (ruler of Ghazni before Muhammad Ghori) who came to India only to plunder and acquire wealth, Muhammad Ghori was looking at it to settle down and establish an empire in India. Muhammad Ghori invaded India and occupied Punjab and Sind by 1190. This led to two battles fought between him and Prithviraj Chauhan.

Prithviraj Chauhan was the raj put ruler of Ajmer and Delhi. He also wanted to control Punjab. The battles were fought at Tarain near Delhi in 1191 and 1192.

In 1191, the first battle of Tarain was fought, in which Ghori was defeated and imprisoned by Prithviraj Chauhan, but was later released and sent to Afghanistan. A year later in 1192, Muhammad Ghori came with a large force of 1, 20,000 army men. He sent a message to Prithviraj to accept his supremacy. Prithviraj rejected his proposal and started his preparation for the battle. He collected a large force of horses, elephants and foot soldiers. Many Hindu rajas and chieftains also joined him. But Prithviraj's army could not face the strong opposition. Prithviraj was defeated, captured and killed. Thereafter, Muhammad Ghori took over Delhi and Ajmer and established the Turkish rule in India.



Causes for the failure of the Indian army:

There were number of reasons that led to the defeat of the Rajputs, the rulers of Northern India.

- Indian rulers lacked unity. They were busy in their mutual conflicts.
- The military techniques used by Indian army were out of date and far inferior to those used by Muslims
- Indian army mainly depended on elephants while Muslims possessed fast moving cavalry.
- Muslims had a well organized army with efficient leaders.

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Muhammad Ghori returned to Ghori, leaving his Indian territories in the charge of his trusted general Qutub-ud –din Aibak.

After Ghori's death in 1206, Qutub-ud-din Aibak proclaimed himself as the ruler of the Turkish territories in India. He took the title of Sultan and made Delhi his capital.

This marked the beginning of The Delhi Sultanate.

DO YOU KNOW?



THE MAMLUK DYNASTY (1206 – 1290AD)

Qutubuddin Aibak(1206-1210 AD)

Qutubuddin Aibak was a slave who rose to the post of a trusted and an able general of Muhammad Ghori. He founded the Mamluk dynasty. The Mamluk Dynasty is also known as the 'Slave Dynasty' because Qutubuddin Aibak and his successors were called Mamluk, which means 'slave' or 'sons of a slave'. In 1194, Muhammad Ghori defeated the ruler of Varanasi and returned to



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Ghori leaving behind Qutubuddin Aibak. After Muhammad Ghori's death in 1206, Qutubuddin declared himself the ruler/'Sultan' of the territories ruled by the Turks in India and made Delhi his capital. He suppressed all internal revolts and also checked the north-west frontiers from Mongol invasions. However, he did not live long enough. He died suddenly while playing horse polo (Chaugan) in 1210. He was succeeded by his son Arambaksh who was further succeeded by his son-in-law Iltutmish after the short span of eight months

Interesting to know...



Qutubuddin was a generous king. He was also known as 'Lakshbaksh' (giver of lakhs) because he gave liberal donations to the poor. He also started the construction of Qutub Minar which was later completed by Iltutmish.

It was named in honour of Qutubuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, a saint from Transoxiana who came to live in India and was greatly venerated by Iltutmish.

ILTUTMISH (1211-1236 AD)



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- Iltutmish was the second big ruler of the Mamluk dynasty.
- He was bestowed upon with the title of ‘Sultan’ by the Caliph of Baghdad.
- He suppressed rebellions to strengthen the Delhi Sultanate.
- He initiated the ‘Iqta system’ in which lands were granted to nobles and his officers instead of salary. They were then called Iqtadars. The Iqta holders were also given the right to collect revenue from their land. He introduced a new currency ([silver tanka weighing 175 gms](#)) which became the basis of the modern rupee.
- He tried to strengthen the northwestern frontier to protect his empire from mongol attacks
- He completed the construction of the QutubMinar and also built a mosque.

	
<p>Coin of Shams-Us-Din Iltutmish , circa 1210 - 1235. Obv: Crude figure of Rider bearing lance on caparisoned horse facing right. Devnagari Legends: Sri /ham rah'. Star above horse. Rev:Arabic Legends : 'shams al-dunyawa'l din Iltutmish al-sultan'.</p>	<p>Iltutmish s'Tomb in Delhi taken by Samuel Bourne in 1860s</p>

Razia Sultan (reign: 1236-1240 AD)

After his death, Iltutmish was briefly succeeded by his son, who proved to be an ineffective ruler; within seven months the throne went to Iltutmish’s daughter, Razia.

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Case Study on Razia Sultan



An artist's rendering of Razia Sultan's portrait.

INTERESTING FACT

Razia was according to the historian Siraj, 'a great monarch, wise, just and generous.'

Razia Sultan was the Sultan of Delhi in India from 1236 to 1240. She was the fifth Mamluk Sultan and also the only woman ruler during both the Sultanate and the Mughal Period. She was a great administrator. Razia tried to dress as a man in public, be it in court or on the battle field. She rode horses and led her army. She did not want herself to be addressed as 'sultana' because it meant a wife of a Sultan. Hence she preferred being called as Sultan. She established complete law and order under her rule.

The Turkish nobles did not accept her as their ruler and conspired against her. She was defeated and compelled to flee. She was finally killed in 1240. After Razia's death a number of weak rulers took over the throne before, Ghiyasuddin Balban, a Turkish noble, finally succeeded her.

Ghiyasuddin Balban (Reign: 1266-1287)

Balban seized power after the death of Nasir-ud-din (the youngest son of Iltutmish). He realized the intrigues of the Turkish nobles were the main cause of the weakness of the royal authority and disorder prevailing in the kingdom. **When Balban came to the throne he brought in the following changes.**



- He reorganized the army and maintained an efficient spy system.
- He fortified his empire against Mongol invasion.
- He introduced the rituals of Sijdah (prostration) and Paibos (kissing the feet) in order to exalt the status of the sultan.
- He also ordered the nobles to stop living in luxury.
- He kept a strict watch on their activities to ensure that they did not become powerful.
- He introduced the Persian festival of Navroz to impress the nobles and people with his wealth and power.

Achievements of Balban

- Balban was a very able and dignified ruler. He tried to consolidate the empire instead of just extending its boundaries.

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- He had a well equipped army to protect his kingdom from internal rebellions and external invasions
- He patronized many Muslim scholars and gave shelter to many refugees from central Asia

Balban died in 1287. One of his grandsons Kaiqubad succeeded him and was made the Sultan of Delhi. He was however murdered in 1290.

Decline of the slave dynasty

The line of slave sultans came to an end along with the power of pure Turks. The throne then passed into the hands of the Khiljis.

Balban strengthened the Delhi Sultanate by consolidating rather than expanding. He introduced a new theory of kingship and reshaped the relations between the Sultan and the nobility.

THE KHILJI DYNASTY (1290-1320AD)

The Khilji dynasty ruled large parts of South Asia between 1290 to 1320. They defended India from Mongol invasions. The Khilji dynasty was named after a village in Afghanistan. There are different views regarding their origin. Some historians believe that they were Afghans whereas others say that they were originally Turkish. The founder of the Khilji dynasty was Jalaluddin Khilji.

Jalaluddin Khilji (Reign: 1290-1296 AD)

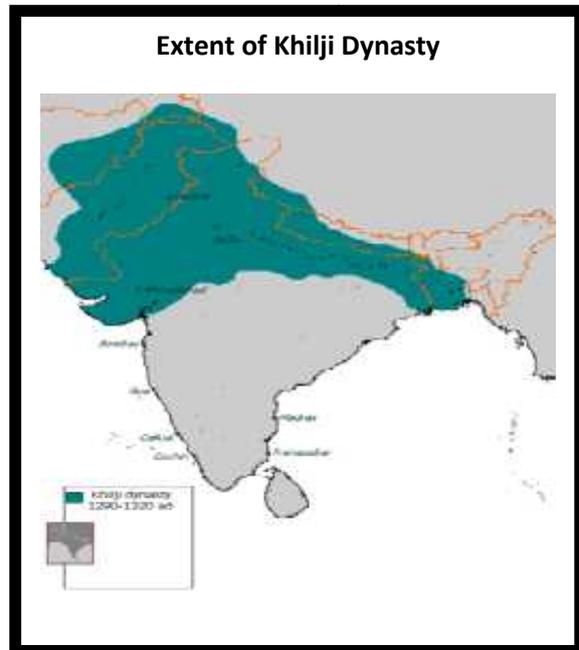
Jalal – ud – din Khilji, the first khilji ruler, was seventy years old when he took over the throne. He was simple, peace loving and a kind person. He allowed the Turkish nobles to keep their posts and pardoned most of the enemies who were fighting for the throne.

The only noteworthy event of Jalal-ud-din's reign was the raid by Ala-ud-din on Devagiri (Deogir, modern Daulatabad) in 1294. After defeating the rulers of Devagiri he returned to Kara with huge quantities of gold and precious articles. Jalal –ud-din wished to congratulate

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his nephew, but Ala-ud-din killed him, and had his head carried through the provinces on a spearhead for all to see.

Alauddin Chili (1296 – 1316 AD)



Sultan Alauddin Khilji's real name was Ali Gunship Bam. He was the second ruler of the Turkic Afghans. He is known as the most powerful ruler of the Khilji dynasty

Malik Kajor was a slave bought for a thousand dinars by Alauddinkhilji .therefore he was known as **HAZAR DINARI** .he commanded the khilji army that conquered Dvarasamudra and Madurai.

Conquest

- One of the first expeditions he undertook was to Gujarat, in AD 1297.
- He annexed Gujarat, Malwa, parts of Rajasthan and Deccan.
- In Gujarat he secured the services of eunuch slave MalickKafur . Malik Kafur went on to become the general of Alauddin's army
- He captured Devagiri in AD 1307 .he defeated the rulers of Warangal, Dvarasamudra and Mysore .
- He even went deep down south and drained the wealth of Madurai and Rameshwaram
- Alauddin thus became the first ruler from north India to extend his kingdom south of the river Narmada.

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Ala-du-dins's reforms and administration

- He introduced many reforms to make his empire strong and powerful.
Ala-ud-din set up an efficient system of government. He did not allow the Ulemas to interfere in the affairs of the state.

Military reforms

- He was the first Delhi Sultan to maintain a well equipped standing Army.
- He paid his soldiers in cash from the royal treasury.
- He introduced the system of branding of horses (dagh) and also maintained a list of soldiers (chehra).
- He organized a very efficient spy system.
- Several workshops and factories were set up for the manufacture of weapons and other war material.

Economic reforms

- He fixed the price of every commodity by himself and made it sure that there was a balance between demand and supply.
- Prices were kept low so that all the people in his empire lived comfortably.
- Farmers could not hoard grains or sell them privately.
- The prices were not to be disturbed even in times of famine.

Do you know?

Alauddin introduced four regulations for making his reign free from rebellions:

- Confiscated the property of the nobles.
- Reorganized the intelligence system.
- The public sale of liquor and drugs was banned.
- Nobles and common people were forbidden to have social gatherings and festivities.

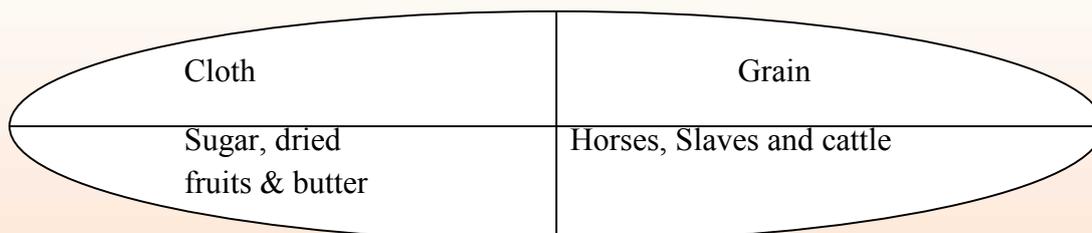
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Case Study

Market reforms of AlauddinKhilji

Allauddin initiated various economic reforms. He appointed special revenue officers to collect revenue. Revenue was based on the measurement of land. He introduced few reforms which were known as market reforms.

AllauddinKhilji established four separate markets in Delhi.



Each market was under an officer called **Shan imandi**.

Government store houses were maintained for the proper supply of grains regulations were passed to fix the prices of each commodity.

Checking and maintaining a balance between proper demand and supply of goods was done.

A separate market was set up with all the merchants registered in it.

Muhians were appointed to keep a track of the functioning of the market and send a direct report to the Sultan.

Severe punishment was given for violation of rules and regulations. If any shopkeeper was caught charging a higher price or using false weights and measures, he was punished severely.

Same price was maintained even during the famine days.

Decline of the Khiljis

Allauddin died of fever in 1316 AD. After his death Malik Kafur tried to become the sultan of Delhi, but he was killed in this attempt. **Mubarak Shah** and **Khusru Shah** succeeded him. **Khusru Shah** was killed by Ghazi Malik, who was the governor of Dipalpur. He succeeded the throne of Delhi under the title of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq in 1320. This was the beginning of the 'Tughlaq Dynasty'.

TUGHLAQ DYNASTY(1320-1414 AD)

GhiyasuddinTughlaq or Ghazi Malik (Reign: 1320-1325AD)

GhiyasuddinTughlaq was the founder of the Tughlaq dynasty.

- He was an efficient ruler and a good administrator.

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- He loved justice. He liberalized some of Allauddin's harsh measures.
- He is also known for the famous Tughlaqabad fort in Delhi.
- He rooted out corruption , looked after the welfare of the peasants , increased land under cultivation , improved means of communication , transport and the postal system , constructed bridges and canals , increased the wages of civil servants and restored the privileges of his revenue officers
- He was a devout Muslim but he never persecuted the Hindus.

He died in an accident in 1325 and was succeeded by his son Muhammad bin Tughlaq (Jauna Khan),



Tughalagabad Fort

Do you know?



Ibn Batuta visited India during Muhammad Bin Tughlaq's reign. His book 'Rehala (the travelogue)' throws light on Muhammad Tughlaq's reign.

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Muhammad Bin Tughlaq (Reign: 1325-1351 AD)



Muhammad Bin Tughlaq was a learned scholar of Arabic and Persian. He was very tolerant in religious matters. He gave preference to the common man and raised them to high positions which were not liked by nobles and in return they did not cooperate with him. He introduced many ambitious schemes and new experiments but unfortunately all his new schemes and experiments failed.

Case Study: Experiments of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq

- 1. Shift of capital:** Muhammad Bin Tughlaq decided to shift his capital From Delhi to Devagiri in the Deccan and renamed it Daulatabad thinking that it would be a safe and protected place from the Mongol attacks .He ordered the entire population to shift which caused lot of inconvenience and also it became impossible to control North India from Devagiri. Hence the Northwestern frontiers could not be prevented from Mongol attacks. Within 5 months the capital was shifted back to Delhi. This caused heavy financial loss and great hardship to the people. The sultan also lost control over the Deccan after shifting back to Delhi.
- 2. Increase of taxes in the Ganga Yamuna Doab:** Muhammad Bin Tughlaq increased land tax in the Ganga Yamuna Doab to meet the expenses of the army. Many farmers revolted against the king as they were not able to pay the increased revenue due to the famine. The king had to cancel the order.
- 3. Introduction of token currency:** Muhammad Bin Tughlaq introduced bronze token coins of the same value as silver coins to overcome a shortage of silver in India. However Muhammad did not keep a check or reserve the right to issue new coins for the state, as a result large scale circulation of forged coins came into use. The value of currency fell sharply and lots of bronze coins were discarded on the streets of capital. Trade suffered, the sultan had to withdraw the token currency and pay all token coins with silver ones which caused tremendous loss to the royal treasury.

The failure of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq’s experiment lowered his prestige. He also lost the support of the nobles resulting in revolts in many parts of his empire and breaking up of the provinces. His health became worse and he died in 1351. He was succeeded by Feroz Shah Tughlaq.

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Feroz Shah Tughlaq (Reign – 1351-1388 AD)

- After Muhammad Bin Tughlaq's death the nobles and the theologians of the court selected his cousin Feroz Shah as the next sultan. Feroz could neither suppress revolts nor win back the provinces that had broken away.
- He established Deewanikhairat and Deewanibundagan. To please his nobles and officers he made Iqtadari system hereditary.
- He constructed canals for irrigation and also established four new towns – Firozabad, Fatehabad, Jaunpur and Hissar. He promoted learning and built several madrasas.
- He also developed royal factories called karkhanas in which thousands of slaves were employed. About 300 new towns were built during his reign.
- He was intolerant towards Hindus and imposed the Jizya tax on the Brahmins. Hindu temples and idols were destroyed.
- He was one of the last great sultans of Delhi. His policy of intolerance made the Hindus against him.
- After Feroz's death in 1388, Delhi Sultanate declined rapidly.



Do you know???

About 300 new towns were built during Feroz Shah's reign. The most famous among them was Firozabad near Red Fort in Delhi, now called Feroz Shah Kotla.

Top two stories of the Qutub Minar were repaired by Feroz Shah Tughlaq

Feroz Shah Kotla remains next to the Feroz Shah Kotla Cricket Stadium.

Decline of the Tughluqs

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The Delhi Sultanate rapidly declined after Feroz's death in 1388. The successors of Feroz Tughlaq were weak and incompetent. It was during the rule of Naseeruddin Mahmud, the last ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty that the Mongol ruler of Samarkand (Central Asia), **Timur invaded India in 1398.**

Timur

After the collapse of the Tughlaq dynasty, India became politically weak this further opened opportunities for foreign invasions. In 1398 Tamerlane from central Asia attacked India. He was called Timur the Lame because of his battle wounds, he is said to be the most Barbaric of Mongol chiefs. Many people were killed mercilessly and a lot of wealth was taken from India. Delhi, after his attack was in ruins, the wealth taken by him was used to beautify Samarkhand, his capital.



Timur left Khizr Khan an Afghan chief to look after Indian Territories. Tughlaq dynasty ended in 1412 as they could not recover their power after Timur's invasion. In 1414 Khizr Khan established the Sayyid Dynasty in Delhi which lasted till 1451.

Sayyid Dynasty(1414-1451 AD)

Khizr Khan

Khizr Khan established the Sayyid dynasty. He was said to be the ablest ruler, in 1398 he joined forces with Timur; Khizr Khan was appointed by Timur lame before leaving Delhi. Several Sayyid sultans reigned in Delhi from 1414 -1451 but their authority did not extend beyond Punjab and Doab. The rulers of this dynasty were **Khizr Khan, Mubarak Shah, Muhammad Shah and Ala- ud-din Alam Shah.** The last ruler of the dynasty was so weak that he surrendered the throne of Delhi to BahlolLodhi, who was at that time the governor of Sind and Lahore.

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LODI DYNASTY (1451-1526 AD)

The Lodi's were Afghans. Their kingdom was larger than that of the Sayyids

BEHLOL LODI(1451-1489 A.D.)

In 1451 Behlol Lodi succeeded the Sayyids and established the Lodi dynasty. He was a great soldier. Behlol Khan Lodi extended his territories over Gwalior, Jaunpur and upper Uttar Pradesh. He maintained good relations with the nobles. He died in 1489 and was succeeded by his son Sikandar Lodi.

Sikandar Lodi (1489-1517 AD)

Sikandar Lodi was the second ruler of the Lodi dynasty. He ruled from 1489 to 1517. His real name was Nizam Shah. He was given the title of 'Sultan Sikandar Shah'. He tried hard to expand his territories and strengthen his empire. He was known to be a kind and generous ruler who cared for his subjects. He was also a good administrator. He laid roads and encouraged irrigation facilities. He was succeeded by his son Ibrahim Lodi in 1517. The book Tarikh-i-Daudi speaks high about him.



Tomb of Sikander Lodi

Do you know???

Sikandar was a patron of art and learning. He founded the city of Agra and made his capital. Sikandar introduced Gaz-i-Sikandari to measure land. He banned the visits of women to the tombs of Pirs. To improve muslim education he called Sheikh Abdullah and Sheikh Azizullah of Tulumba. He translated an ayurvedic book himself to Persian which is called Farhand-i-Sikandari

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Ibrahim Lodi(1517-1526 A.D.)



Ibrahim Lodi succeeded Sikandar Lodi in 1517. He was very proud, hot tempered and head strong. He faced numerous problems. His behavior with his officers and the nobles was not good. Rana Sanga of Mewar was a big threat to him. There were revolts in many parts of the country. He replaced old and senior officers with those who were very young and also loyal to him. This was not liked by the nobles. The nobles who revolted were put to death. Finally Daulat Khan Lodi, the governor of Punjab and Alma Khan, the sultan's uncle invited Babur (The king of Kabul) to help fight Ibrahim Lodi.

Babur accepted the proposal and marched towards Delhi and defeated and killed Ibrahim Lodi in the first battle of Panipat in 1526. With his death the **Lodi kingdom** came to an end and began the new era **of the Mughal Empire** established by Babur. No Sultan of India except **Sultan Ibrahim had been killed on the battle field.**

Administration of the Sultanate

The expansion of the Delhi Sultanate led to the emergence of a powerful and efficient administrative system. The authority of the Sultan was at its zenith and extended as far south as Madurai. The impact of their administrative system was very powerful on the Indian provincial kingdoms and later on the Mughal system of administration.

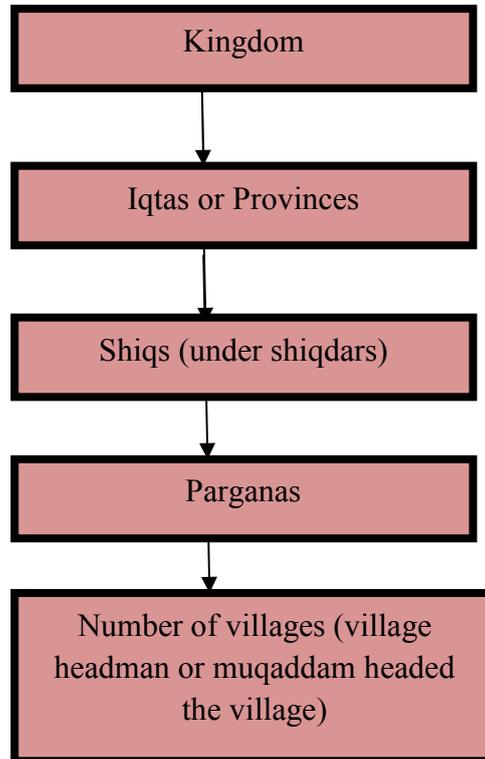
Central Administration

- The Sultan was the head of the administration.
- He had a team of trusted nobles to advise him on affairs of the state.

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- In judicial and religious matters he was advised by the Ulemas (who were learned people and considered as custodians of Islamic learning)

The kingdom was divided into the following parts:-



Different Administrative Departments

Diwan-i-Wizarat

It was the finance department headed by the wazir.

Diwan-i-Ariz

It was the military department headed by Ariz-Mumalik. He was responsible for recruiting the soldiers and administering the military department. The Sultan himself was the commander in chief of the army.

Diwan-i-Risalat

It was the department of religious affairs, headed by the Chief Sadr.

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Judicial department

Chief Qazi was the head of the Judicial Department. The criminal law was based on the rules and regulations made by the Sultans.

Economic administration

- To improve the economic condition the sultans introduced many reforms.
- One third of the produce was collected as land revenue and sometimes even half of the produce was collected. Sultans like Muhammad Bin Tughlaq and FerozTughlaq improved upon the irrigational facilities for better agricultural production.
- The major portion of the income was spent on the army, the personal expenses of the Sultan and on building magnificent buildings and forts.
- During Alauddin Khilji's reign the revenue was based on the actual measurement of land while during Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq's reign it was based on crop sharing.
- The iqta system was an important agrarian measure introduced by the Turks.

The Rise of new Kingdoms with the decline of the Sultanate

- With the decline of the Sultanate a number of new kingdoms came into existence in different parts of the country.
- The Vijaynagar kingdom was known for its temples, flourishing trade and cultural patronage.
- The Bahmani kingdom was founded by Hasan Gangu with its capital at Gulbarga.
- The rulers of the Vijaynagar and Bahmani kingdoms were very ambitious and wanted to bring the whole peninsula under their control.

Causes of the Decline of the Sultanate

There was no definite law of succession. After the death of each Sultan; the situation gave rise to many civil wars. The nobles became the king makers and controlled the weak Sultans. Jagir system gave rise to disintegration that weakened the kingdom. The invasion of Timurand Babur was the main cause for the downfall of the Delhi Sultanat

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Life of the people during the Sultanate – social, economic and religious conditions during this period

The Turks and the Arabs who came to India brought with them the ideas the culture and the pattern of living of Iran and Central Asia. They had a great impact on the Indian culture and the patterns of living here.

Social conditions

- During the sultanate period, the society was divided into four major classes, namely, the aristocracy, the priests, the town people and the peasants.
- The first class was the aristocracy which consisted of the sultan, his nobles and other high officials, Hindu rajas, chiefs, Hindu merchants and bankers. The major part of the wealth in the country was in their hands. They lived in big mansions and led a luxurious life.
- The sultan was all powerful, his will was law and he possessed all the powers- military, judicial and administrative. The Khutba was read and the coins were issued in his name
- The **second class** consisted of the priestly class. **They included the Ulemas, maulvis, Qazis, Brahmins and the pandits.** Ulemas, were the chief advisers of the kings.
- The **third class of the people were the town people, which consisted of traders, merchants, artisans, craftsmen etc.** the traders were quite rich during those days; they lent money on heavy interest. They were also involved in the internal and external trade; artisans and craftsmen lived mostly in towns where they could easily do their work.
- The fourth class consisted of farmers and peasants. They lived a very poor and miserable life. They had to pay land revenue and other taxes such as tax on ponds, house tax grazing tax etc. Famines and wars further added to their misery.

Social evils

- The medieval society was a society of inequalities. Caste divisions among the people had become more rigid.
- The Hindus converted to Islam. There were inter-caste marriages between the Turkish nobles and converted Muslims. Child marriages and seclusion of women became a common practice in the upper and middle class families.
- Widow Remarriage was looked down upon.

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- Women were completely dependent upon their male relatives.
- Women observed purdah in the towns
- Sati was also prevalent among the Rajputs
- The birth of the girl child was not welcomed.

The Economic life

- The Sultans of Delhi tried their best to improve the economic condition of the country
- Both internal and foreign trade flourished during this period.
- Delhi was the main center of trading
- They encouraged trade in order to meet their needs. Trade reached a new height.
- During this period every town had a market place. Big fairs were also held in which traders assembled to buy and sell goods.
- Trade from India reached to Malaya, China, Central Asia, Iran, Afghanistan and many European Countries.
- Silver coins commonly known as the **tanka** were minted. Gold coins called **mohurs** were also used on special occasions
- During this time a special system of weights was introduced.
- The main occupation of common people was agriculture. The source of income of the state was the land tax. There were three types of taxes
- Tax on cultivation called kharaj and amounting to about fifty percent of the peasant's produce,
- Tax on cattle
- Tax on houses
- Industry was also encouraged. Cotton textile and silk industry flourished in this period. Paper industry had grown and there was an extensive use of paper. Other crafts like leather making, metal craft and carpet weaving flourished. The royal karkhanas produced goods for the sultan and his family members. Nobles were also very well paid.

Religious life

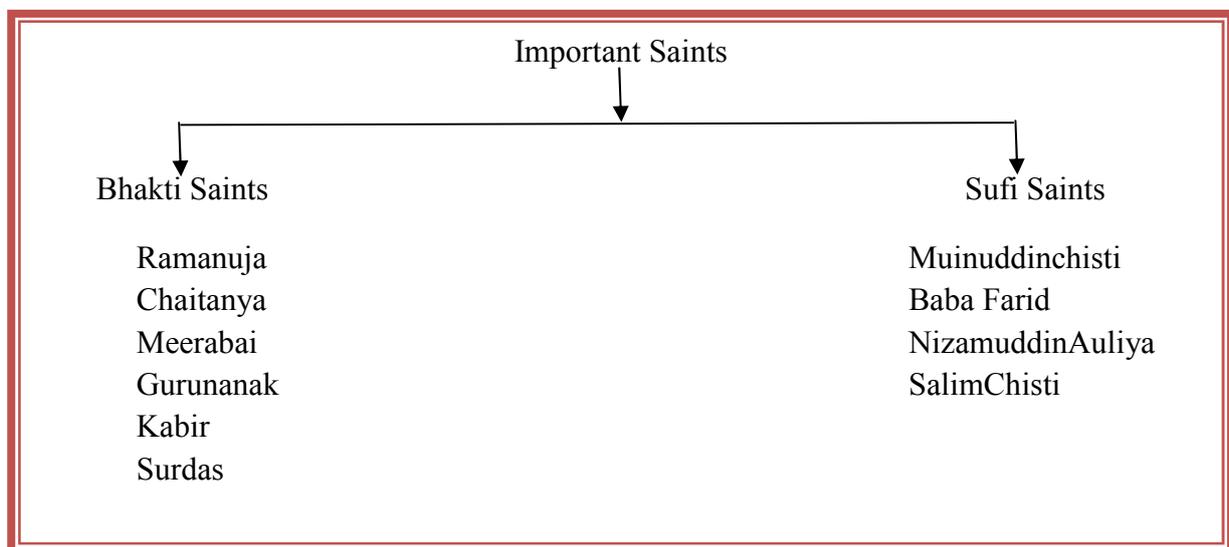
Religious conditions under the ruler of the Delhi Sultanate went through a significant change. During the initial years of their rule, all ancient religious sects in India like the Vedic religion,

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Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Vishnuism, Shaivism etc. existed in different forms but with time, many religions declined or were concentrated in some parts of India. Among the Muslims the Sunnis and Shias constituted the majority.

The novelty of this period was the growing popularity of Sufism and the Bhakti Movement among the Hindus.

With Turks and Mughals came Islam to India. Both Hindus and Muslims got influenced by each other and shared each other's religious ideas. This gave rise to the Sufi Movement and the Bhakti Movement.



Bhakti Movement

The word bhakti symbolizes devotion to God. It laid great emphasis on love as the means of coming closer to god. The bhakti saints preached the message of love through hymns. They were very popular with the masses because they preached in the language of the common man. Their teachings were simple. They discarded the caste system.

Common teachings of the Bhatia Saints

Bhatia teachings emphasized on:

- Devotion to one god.

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- Need for having a guru or a teacher in order to attain salvation and gain true knowledge.
- Equality in the society irrespective of caste, color and creed.
- Love for human beings.
- The virtue of kindness and purity of heart and mind.

Saints during the Bhakti movement:



Mirabai:

Mirabai is the most famous of the women bhakta poet of north India. Although Mirabai did not attract a sect or group of followers, she has been recognized as a source of inspiration for centuries. Mirabai is said to have been devoted to Krishna from a very early age, her songs continue to be sung by women and men, especially those who are poor and considered “low caste” in Gujarat and Rajasthan

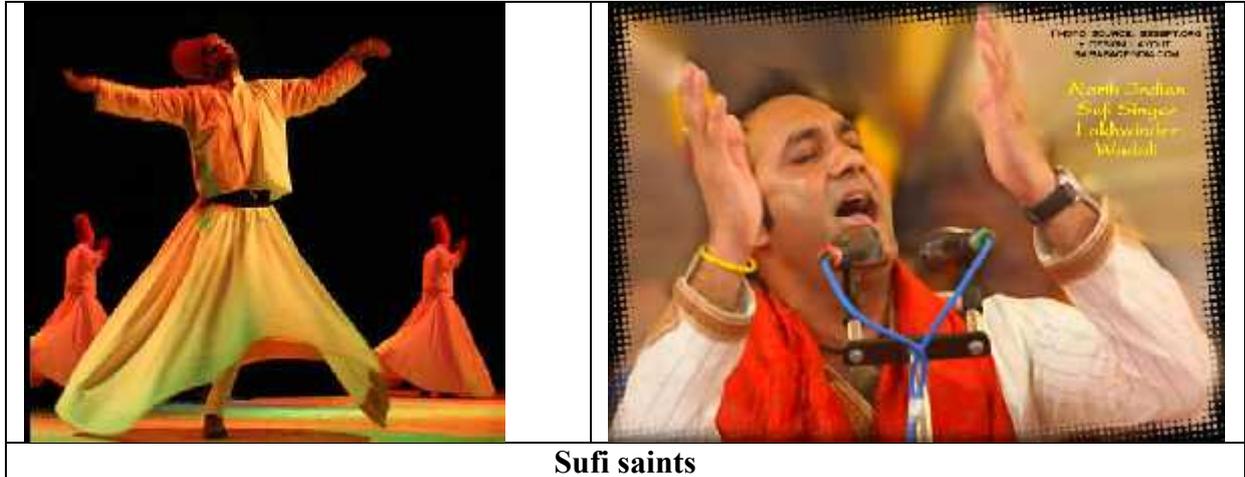
Ramanuja: preached during the 12th C. He treated all human beings as equal. According to him everyone could by the worship of God attain salvation.

Chaitanya: was a bhakti saint who popularized the bhakti movement in Bengal, Assam and Orissa. He was a devotee of Krishna and emphasized universal love as the first step towards god. He believed that one can experience god’s existence through love and devotion, song and dance. Kirtans, devotional songs sung in chorus to the accompaniment of instrumental music, were a feature of his congregations.

Surdas :Surdas was a devotee of Krishna . His poems are compiled in the sursagar.

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Kabir: Emphasized that there is one god. Some call him Ram and some call him Rahim. Taught that god lives not in temples or mosques, but in the heart of every individual. Ridiculed all evil practices such as sati, the purdah system and superiority of the Brahmins



Sufi saints

The Sufi Movement

- Along with the Turks a number of Sufi saints came to India and settled down in different parts. They preached love and devotion as the means of coming close to God. The Sufi Saints did not give much importance to prayer, fasting, rituals of worship etc. They were tolerant of other communities and their religions. Many Hindus became the followers of these Sufi saints. Sufism was open to all irrespective of religion, status and gender

Common teachings of Sufi Saints

- God is almighty and all men are his children.
- All human beings are equal and one must love all human beings.
- Rituals are not necessary to reach god.
- One can reach god through love and devotion rather than rituals.
- Music is also one way to reach god.
- There is only one god, different religions are only the means to reach god so all religions should be respected.

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Effects of the Bhakti and the Sufi movements

The Bhakti and the Sufi movement encouraged religious reforms. They opposed the rigid caste system. They also led to the growth of local languages because both the bhakti and the Sufi saints preached in the language of the common man. All the saints had given importance on devotion to God and purity of heart and mind. In their teachings they preached that for the devotion to god, love was more important than any other thing. One can reach god through love only, not by performing rituals. The most important aspect of the bhakti movement was that it tried to bring closer the followers of Hinduism and Islam by removing their differences.

Case study : Bhakti Saint



Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Guru Nanak was a well known saint and a preacher of the medieval period. He was the founder of the Sikh religion and a disciple of Kabir. He was born in Talwandi in Lahore. He discarded caste distinctions, idol worship and ritualism. To remove caste distinctions he introduced common kitchen (Langar) where all people irrespective of their caste and status could sit together and eat.

Guru Nanak worked for the upliftment of the women also. He requested people to love all human beings. His life was dedicated to establishing harmony between Hindus and Muslims.

When Guru Nanak Dev Ji was 12 years old his father gave him twenty rupees and asked him to do a business, apparently to teach him business. Guru Nanak Dev Ji bought food for all the money and distributed among saints, and poor. When his father asked him what happened to the business? He replied that he had done a "True business" at the place where Guru Nanak dev had fed the poor, agurudwara was made and named Sacha Sauda.

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Case study: Sufi Saint



Qutub-ud-din Bakhtiar Kaki was a renowned Muslim Sufi mystic, saint and a scholar in the chisti order. Khwaja Qutub-ud-din was born in 569 A.H. (1173 CE) in a town called Aush or Awash in Mawar-un-Nahar (Transoxiana). Khwaja Qutub-ud-Din's original name was Bakhtiar and later he was given title of Qutub-ud-Din.

Whenever anything came to him he quickly distributed that to the poor and needy. If there was nothing, he would request his attendants and mureeds to distribute plain water as a humble token to his nobility.

The tomb of Qutub-ud-din Bakhtiar Kaki lies near Qutub Minar.

Language and Literature

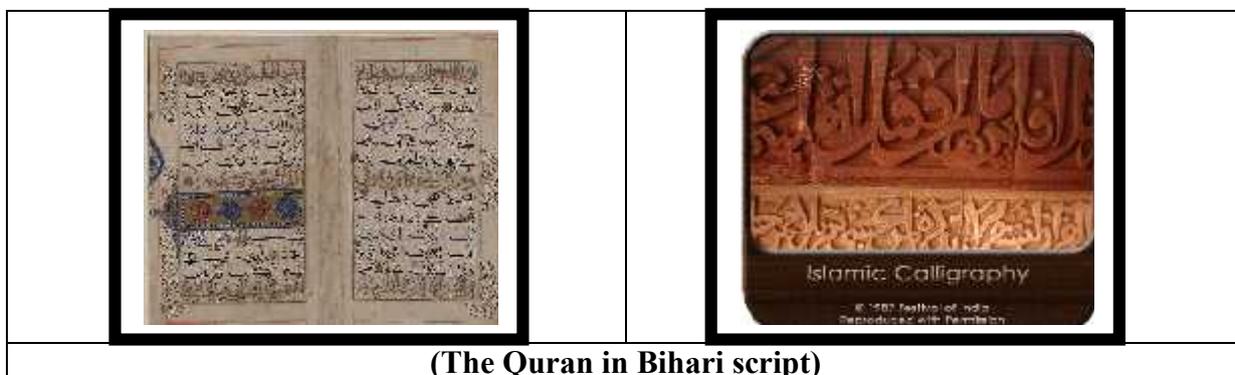
- Persian was the language of the administration. Arabic was used mostly by Arab traders from western Asia.
- Sanskrit was the language of the higher learning among Hindus.
- Development of bhakti movement led to the development of regional languages such as Hindi, Marathi, Kannad, Telegu, Tamil. because of a long contact between Muslims and Hindus, Persian and Hindi also mixed completely. This mixture gave birth to a new language called URDU.
- Persian poets like Amir Khusro and Amir Hussian Dalvi wrote superb poetry in Persian
- Minhaj-us-siraj and Zia-ud-din-din- Barni were great historians of this period. They wrote accounts of the rulers and the political events of that period.
- Amir Khusro was also a famous Hindi writer.

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- Malik Mohammad Jayasi was the author of Padmavat.

Painting and Art

This period enhanced the process of decorating books. Artists painted the portraits of the kings and sometimes they illustrated the events described in the books with their paintings. The Turkish rulers bought with them books illustrating the beautiful Persian miniatures. Miniature paintings were used to illustrate books. The Unani system of medicine, the art of paper mache and enameling skills were also bought to India by the Turks. Painting and carving in wood flourished under the Vijaynagar rulers.



Music

Music also flourished during the Sultanate. New musical instruments like Sitar, Rabab, Sarangi and Tabla became popular during this time. The Indian classical work 'raagdarpan' was translated into Persian during the reign of Feroz Tughlaq. Bhakti and Sufi saints gave a boost to music. Through their singing, they popularized a new style of the chorus singing called 'qawwali'. Amir Khusru introduced many new ragas such as ghora and sanam. The rhythmic Persian form of chorus singing, called quawwali was made popular by the Sufi saints. A new type of dance called kathak developed at that time.

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Case study: Amir Khusru



Amir Khusru was an Indian musician, scholar and a poet. He was born in 1253 AD in Patiali India. His father served the sultan of Delhi Shamsuddin Iltutmish in a high position; his mother was of Indian origin. His father died when he was only eight. He was a Sufi mystic and a spiritual disciple of Nizamuddin Auliya of Delhi. He was not only a notable poet but also a famous musician. He is regarded as the ‘father of qawwali’. He was the originator of Khayal and Tarana style of music. Amir Khusru is also known for the invention of the Tabla. He was associated with the royal courts of more than seven rulers of the Delhi Sultanate.

Architecture

The art and architecture of the Delhi Sultanate period was different from the Indian style. The Indo Islamic style of architecture developed as mingling of the Indian and Turkish styles.

The Turkish brought with them Arabian and Persian traditions of architecture. Indian decorations and techniques were used in the Islamic buildings, with the domes and arches of their own style.

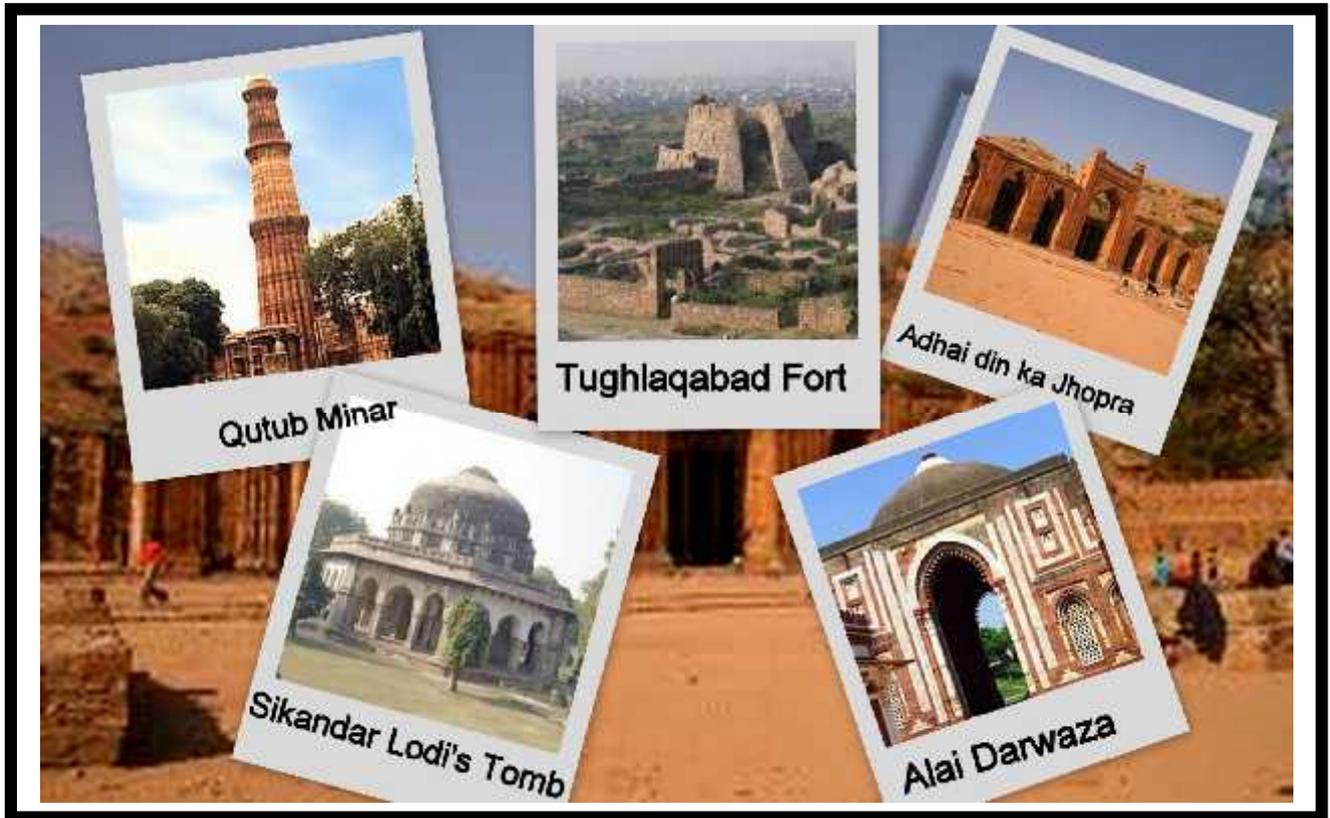
Among the well known buildings of this period are the Qutubminar, the Quwat- ul – Islam mosque, the Alai Darwaza, the tomb of Ghiasuddin Tughlaq, Ferozshahkotla, the fort at Tuglaqabad etc.

These depict the style of Indo -Muslim architecture. The forts were simple but strong. They built arches above the doorways and windows instead of beams, which were used by Indians before the coming of the Muslims. They also used tall and sturdy towers or minarets in their buildings, although pillars were also used for their support .The Lodhis developed this tradition. Their architecture became delicate, beautiful and elegant .The outer surface of their

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domes was covered with rich colourful designs in tiles. The sultans also founded towns such as Agra, Fatehabad, Hissar, Firoza (UP), and Jaunpur.



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GLOSSARY

Mamluk	A slave
Chalisa	Forty
Iqta	A piece of land granted to the soldiers or nobles instead of their cash salary for their services.
Tomb	A monument for housing or commemorating a person dead
Revenue	The income of a government from taxation, excise duties, customs, or other sources.
Generous	Liberal in giving or sharing; unselfish
Dagh	Branding of the horses.
Mandi	A market place
Muhyans	Secret agents
Travelogue	A film, lecture, or brochure on travels and travelling
Irrigation	The artificial application of water to land to assist in the production of crops
Sijdah	A method of showing reverence to the Sultan by kneeling before him and touching the ground with the forehead.
Paibos	Nobles would kiss the feet of the Sultan to acknowledge his superiority over them.
Fort	A strong or fortified place occupied by troops.
Diwan –i –Khairal	Department of poor and needy people
Diwan –i- Bundagan	Department of slaves

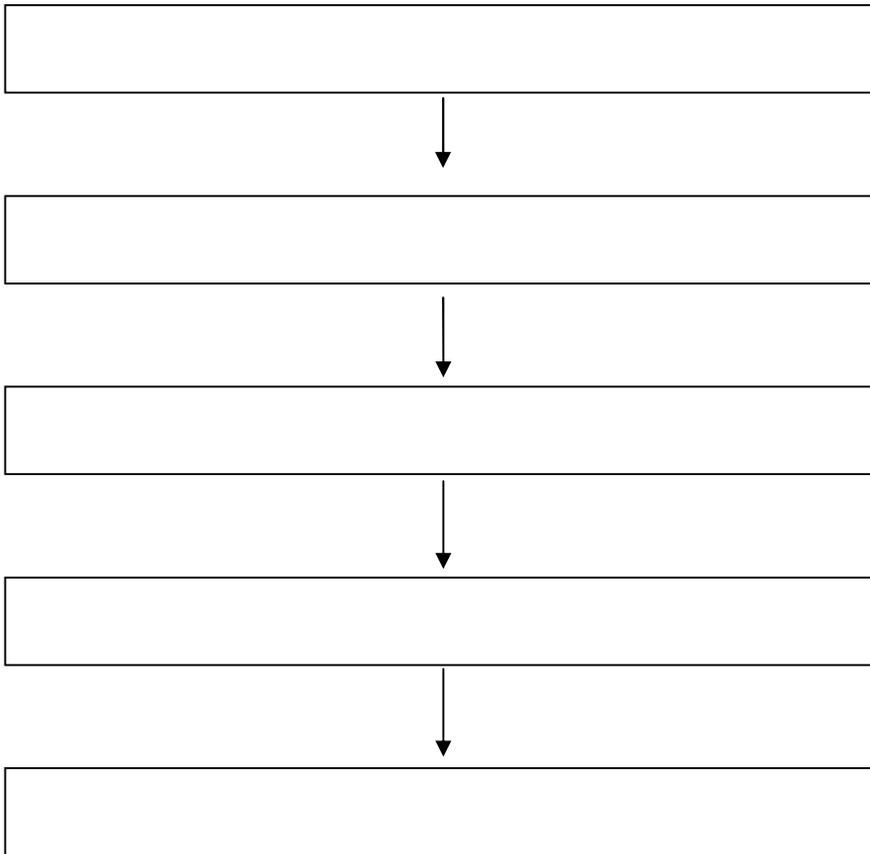
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WORKSHEETS

WORKSHEET- 1

NAME: _____ CLASS: _____ SECTION: _____

Q1. Fill in the names of the five dynasties in correct chronological sequence in the chart provided below. Which period did you like the most and why?



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Q2. What are the various sources of information available for the Delhi Sultanate?

Q 3. Why are the rulers referred to as the 'sultans' of the Delhi Sultanate?

WORKSHEET- 2

NAME: _____ **CLASS:** _____ **SECTION:** _____

Q1. Who founded 'The Mamluk Dynasty'? Why is this dynasty considered to be the founder of the Delhi sultanate?

Q2. What is Qutub-ud-din Aibak remembered for by most people?

Q3. When and how did Qutub-ud-din Aibak die? Who succeeded him?

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Q4. Name the following:

a. A silver coin introduced by Iltutmish:

b. An organized group of forty powerful nobles:

c. An officer who was in charge of collecting revenue from the Iqtas:

Q5. Describe the features of the Iqtadari system.

Q6. Iltutmish is known as one of the greatest sultans of the slave dynasty. Elucidate.

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WORKSHEET 3

NAME: _____ CLASS: _____ SECTION: _____



Q1. Identify the woman ruler shown above and write a note on her life.

Q2. Choose the correct options-

i) Which sultan did Razia succeed _____

- (a) Bahram (b) Qutbuddin Aibak
(c) Iltutmish (d) Ruknuddin Feroz

ii) Balban's greatest achievement was _____

- (a) Curbing the power of the nobles.
(b) Establishment of peace and security.
(c) Defense against the Mongols.
(d) Suppression of revolts.

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Q3. Find out about these women leaders and write briefly on their struggle for power.



Jayalalitha



Sheila Dixit



Benazir Bhutto



Sheik Hasina



Indira Gandhi



Mayawati



Corazon Aquino

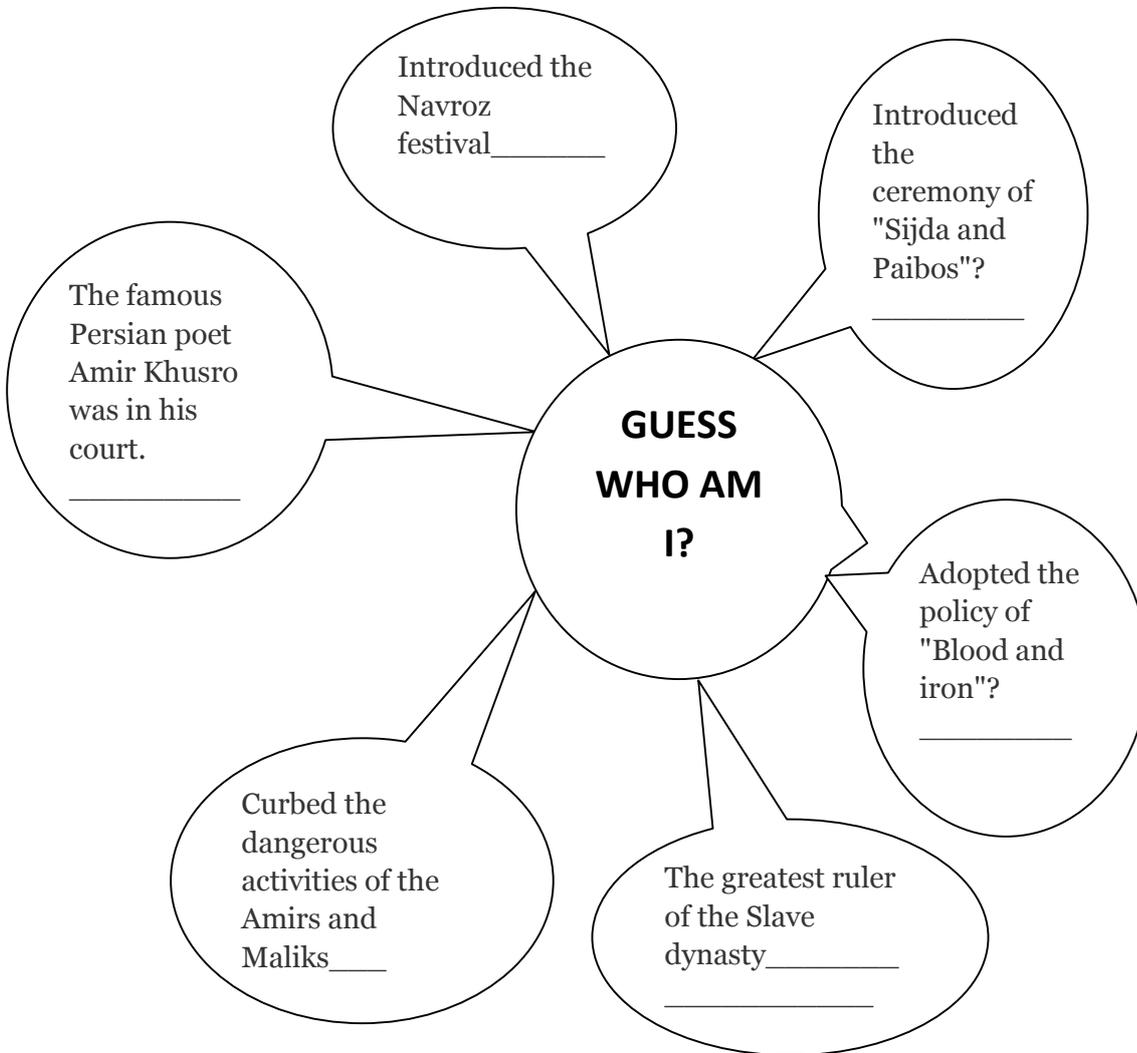


Sirimavo Bhandarnaike

‘Women rulers were few but powerful and proved their mettle whenever they ascended the throne.’

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Q4. Guess, who we are talking about -

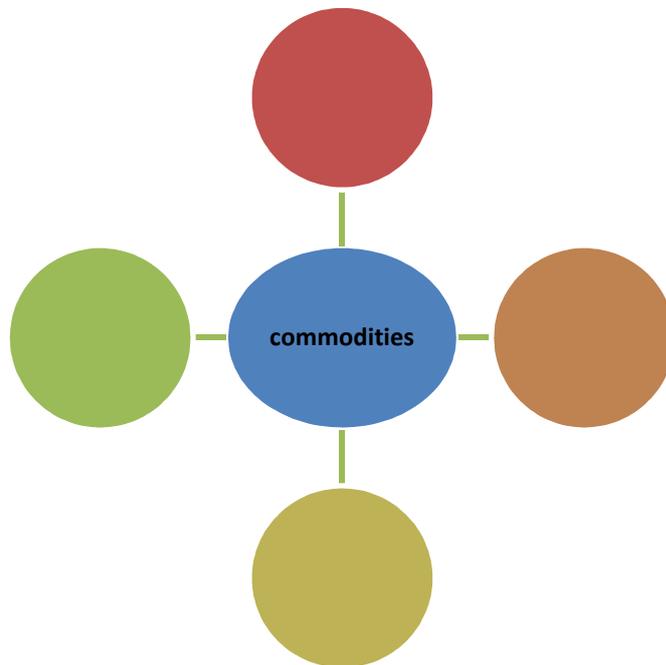


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WORKSHEET 4

NAME: _____ CLASS: _____ SECTION: _____

Q1. Fill in the graphic organizer given below with the four commodities sold in the four separate markets during Alauddin Khilji's reign.



Q2. Critically analyze the measures adopted by Alauddin Khilji to improve economic conditions during his rule.

Ans.

Q3. Think of any one step which could have been better than the steps taken by Alauddin Khilji to improve upon the economic conditions during his rule.

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Q4. List the three experiments of **Muhammad Bin Tughlaq**. What steps would you have taken for the betterment of the empire and why?

Ans.

Q5. Now, pick out any one of those experiments and imagine that you are Muhammad Bin Tughlaq's trusted minister. What advice would you give him to ensure that this experiment works?

Q6. Choose the correct options-

i) The extent of the Delhi Sultanate was the greatest during the reign of

(a) Alauddin Khilji (b) Iltutmish (c) Balban (d) Mohammad Bin Tughlaq

ii) Which of the following statement is true regarding Muhammad Bin Tughlaq?

- (a) He introduced measures to regulate markets.
- (b) He introduced monetary reforms.
- (c) He increased the taxes paid by the people of the doab region.
- (d) He invited leaders of different faiths for religious discussions.

iii) Which of the following is not one of the features of the economic regulations of Alauddin Khilji?

- (a) Use of correct measures
- (b) Prices being fixed and calculated on the basis of production cost

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- (c) Total curbing of black marketing
- (d) Organization of separate markets for separate commodities.

Q7. T for Time for some research! T for Tactful Tughlaq. Or was he not?

Let us now look at the other side of the coin-

‘You know Sultan; I’m just beginning to understand why they say you are the cleverest man in the world.’

This is what, in the course of the play *Tughlaq* by Girish Karnad, well-known actor, Jnanpeeth Awardee and one of the most important playwrights living today, Sheikh Imam-ud-Din, an important character, has to say about Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq, now remembered as the most foolish king ever to have ascended to the throne of Delhi.



Find out from various sources, the reasons for the change in perception towards Tughlaq.

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WORKSHEET 5

NAME: _____ CLASS: _____ SECTION: _____

1. Fill in the blanks

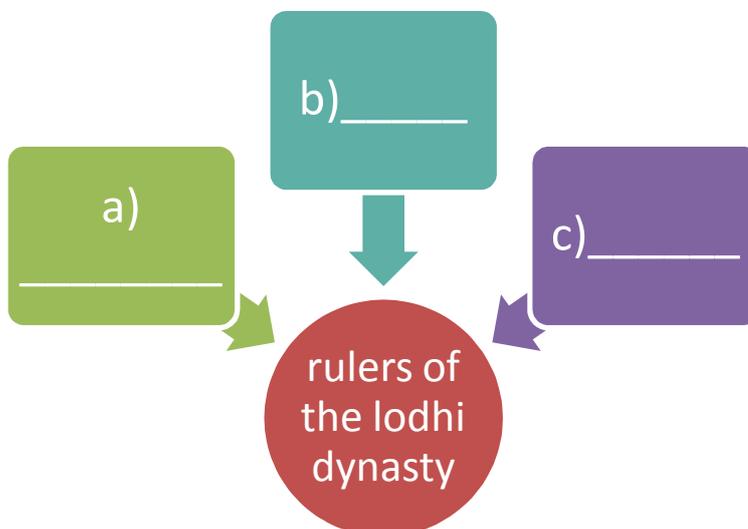
- a. _____ established the Lodi dynasty.
- b. _____ was the second ruler of the Lodi dynasty.
- c. Sikandar Lodi founded the city of _____.
- d. _____ was invited to fight against Ibrahim Lodi.
- e. The first battle of Panipat was fought in the year _____.

2. Answer the following

- a) Why were the nobles unhappy with Ibrahim Lodi?

- b) Name the various rulers of the Sayyid dynasty.

- c) Complete the following graphic organizer



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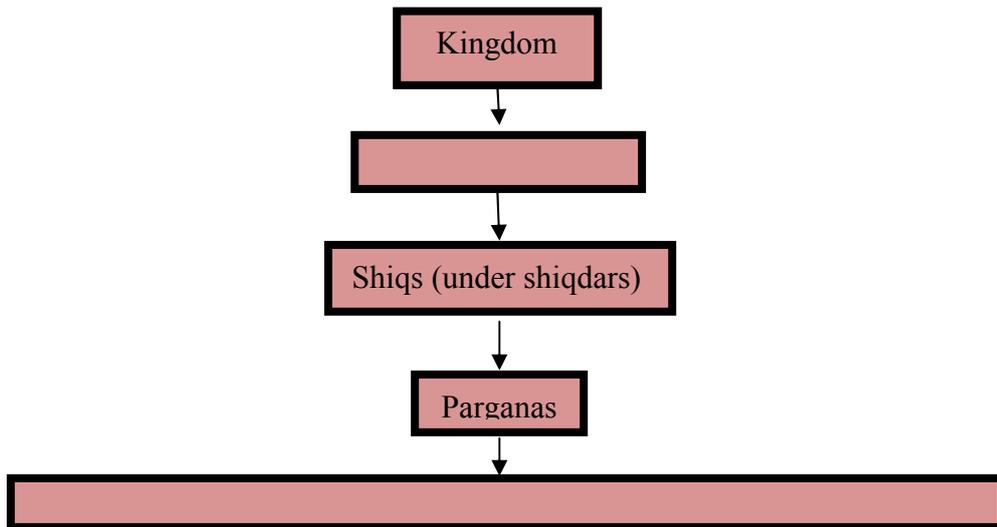
WORKSHEET 6

NAME: _____ **CLASS:** _____ **SECTION:** ____

Q1. Answer the following questions.

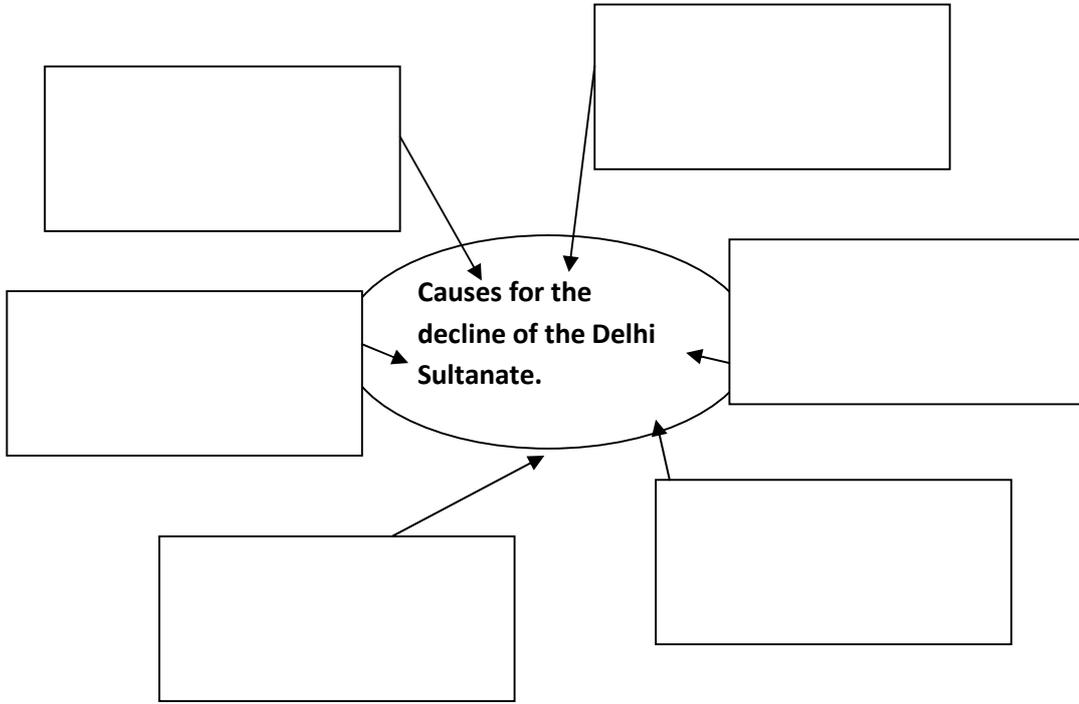
a) Throw some light on the system of central administration under the Delhi sultanate?

b) Complete the following



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c) Complete the following graphic organizer



d) Briefly describe the work done by the following departments during the Delhi sultanate.

i) **Diwan-i-Wizarat**

ii) **Diwan-i-Insha**

e) How did the sultans try to improve the economic conditions during their reign?

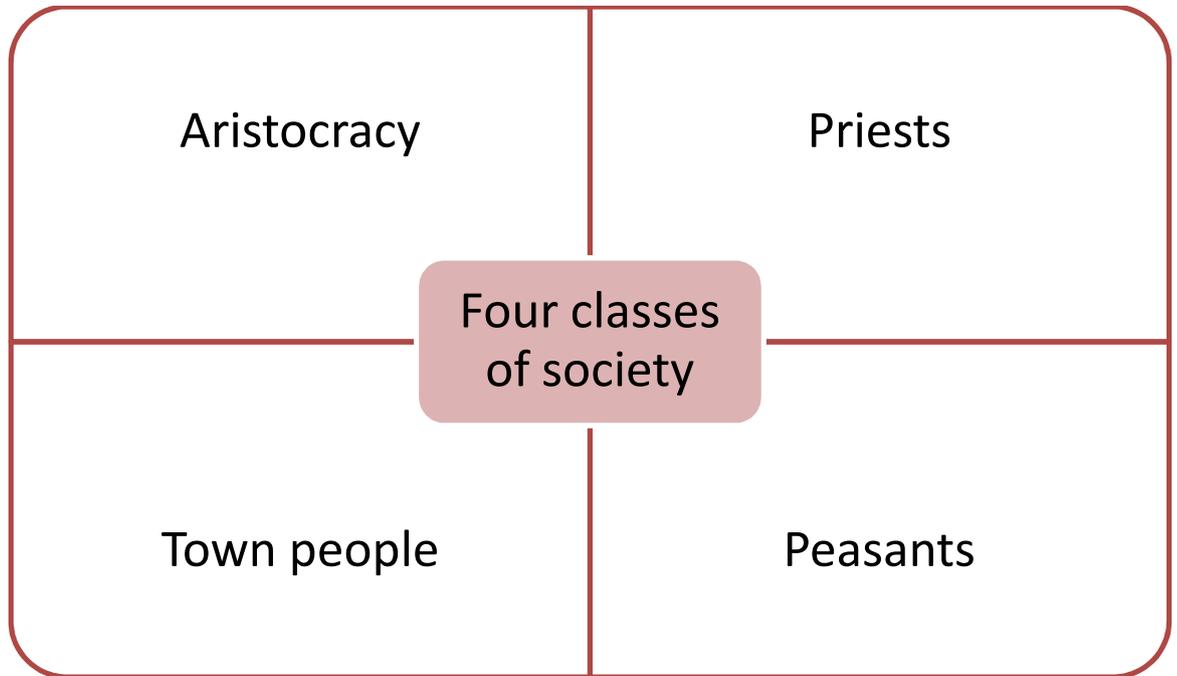
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WORKSHEET 7

NAME: _____ CLASS: _____ SECTION: ____

1. Name the ethnic groups during the sultanate period.

2. Complete the following graphic organizer depicting the social conditions during the Sultanate period.

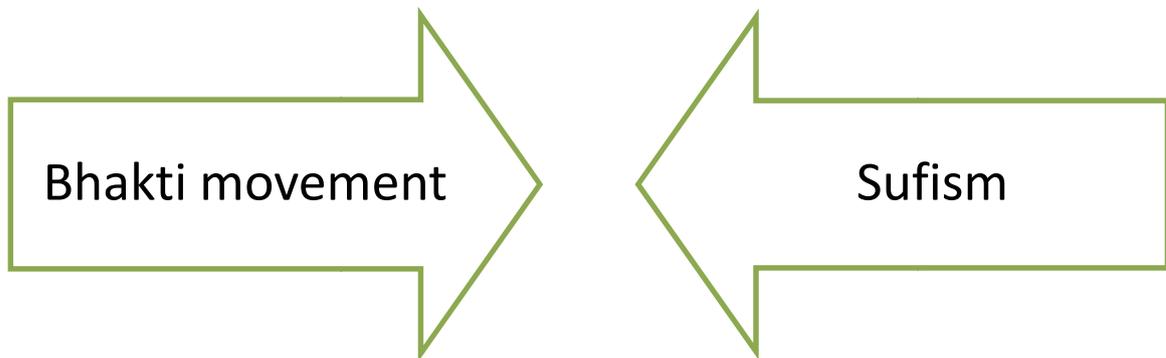


3. Highlight how the economic life enriched the social setup during the Delhi sultanate period.

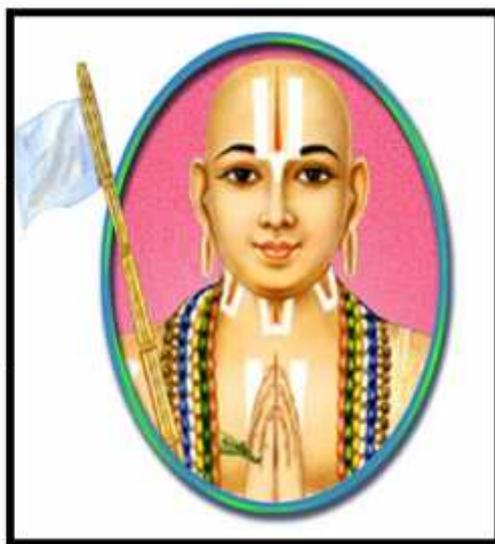
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4. Enumerate the emergence of the significant changes in the religious arena during the Delhi sultanate.

- 5 Complete the following graphic organizer by bringing out the similarities between Sufism and the Bhakti Movement.



5. Observe the picture and answer the questions that follow.



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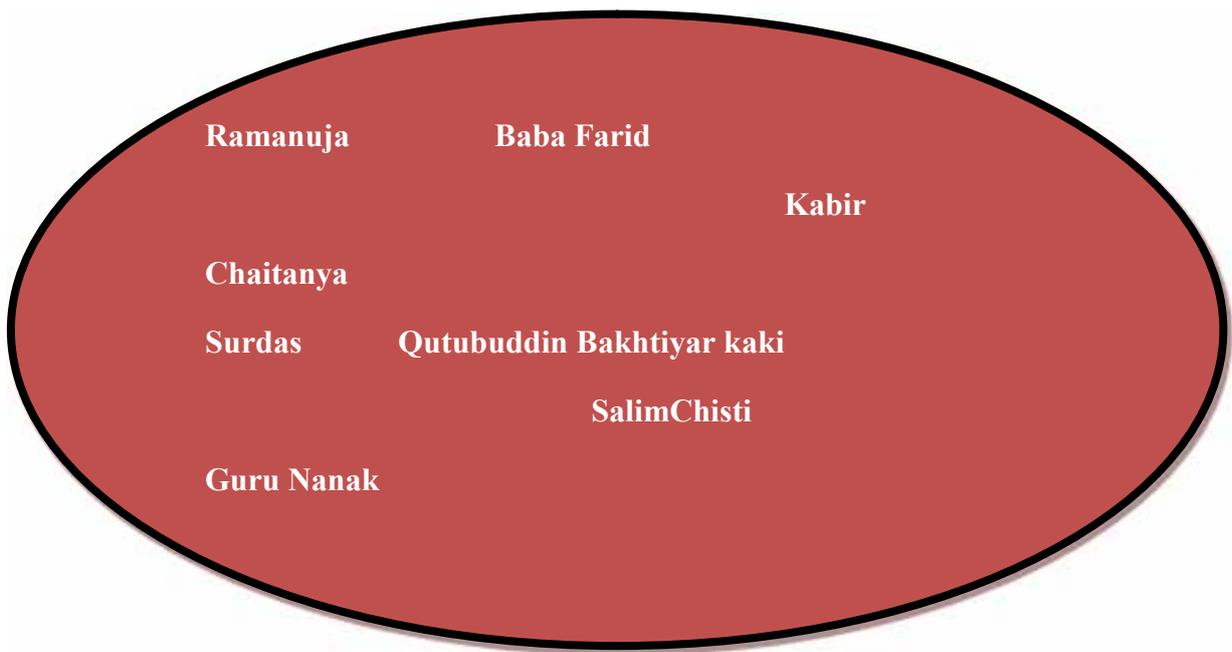
a) Identify the saint.

b) State in detail about the teaching of this saint.

6. Critically evaluate the reasons behind the success of the Bhakti and the Sufi movements.

7. Elucidate the basic teachings given by Gurunak? Name the religion based on his teachings and its holy scripture.

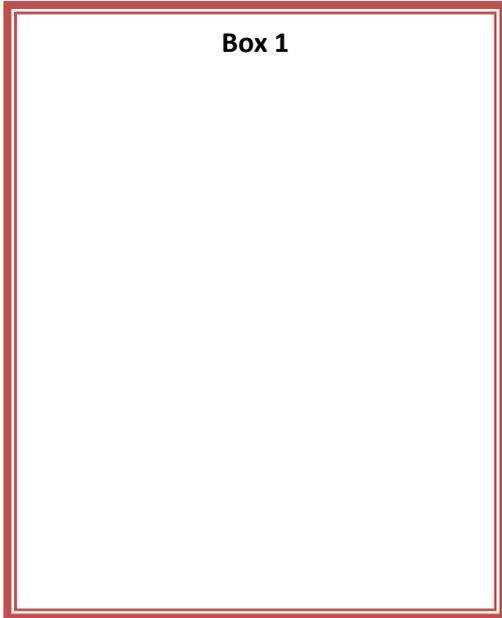
8. Select the names of the Bhakti Saints and the Sufi Saints from the bubble given below and put them into two separate boxes.



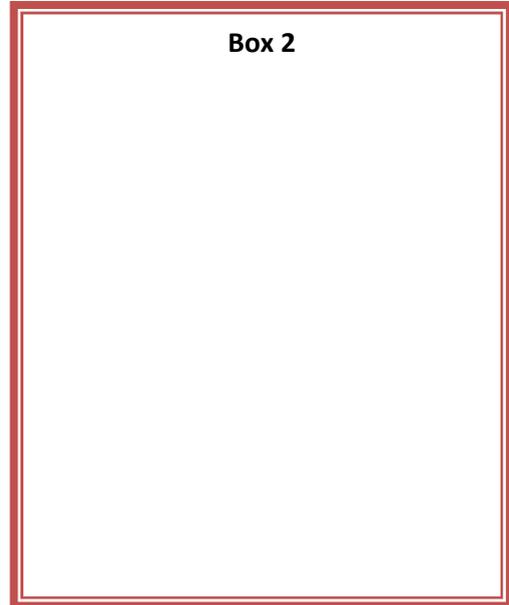
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Box 1



Box 2



WORKSHEET 8

NAME: _____ **CLASS:** _____ **SECTION:** _____

I. Mention two important milestones achieved by the Sultans during the period of the Delhi Sultanate under the following categories:

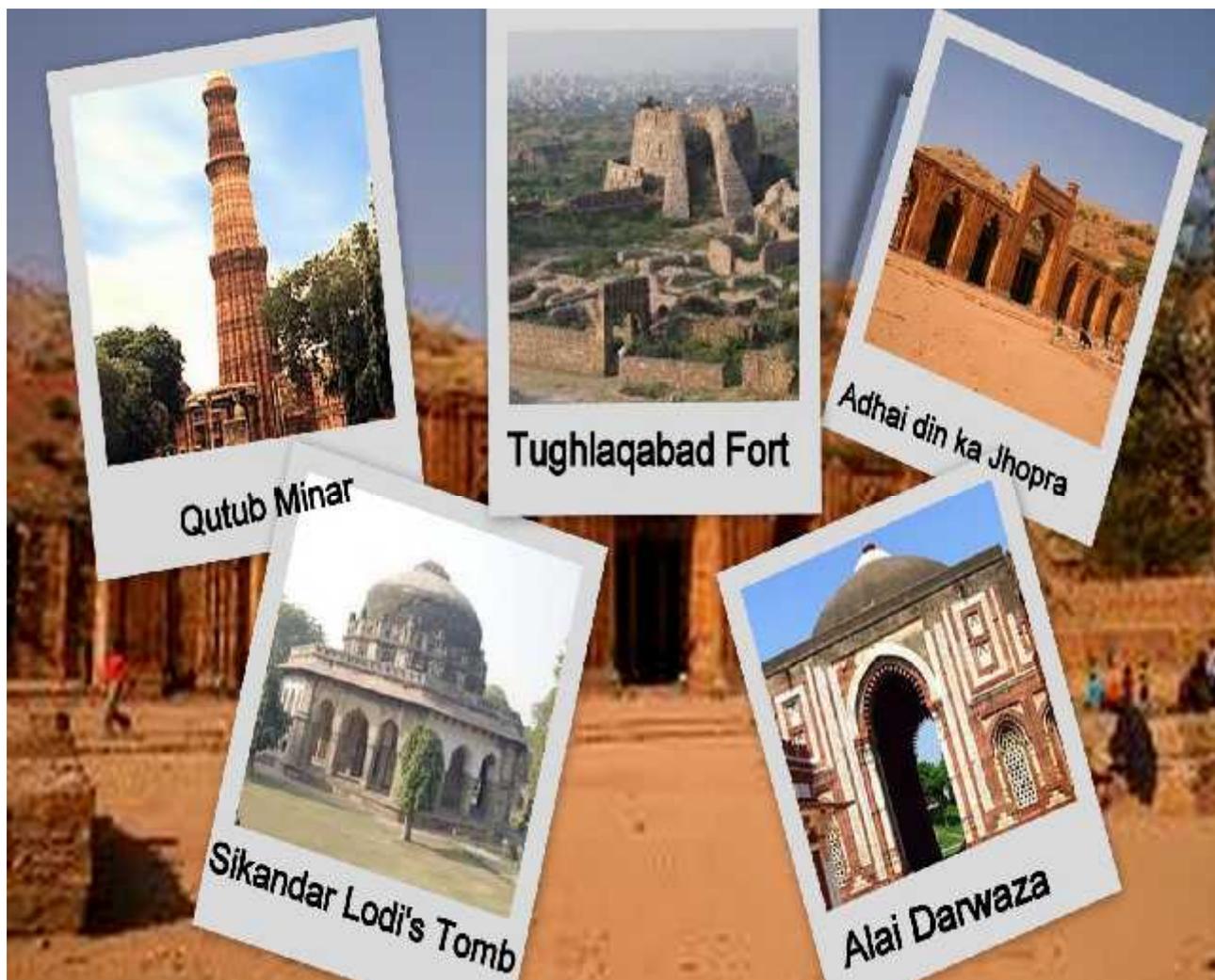
a. Music:

b. Painting:

II. 'The coming of the Turks influenced various aspects of the architecture in India.' Justify this statement.

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COLLAGE OF MONUMENTS



III. Time for Research!! Refer to the internet and find out the measures being undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India to preserve monuments (any one)

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REFERENCE AND LINKS

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- www.facts-about-india.com/the-delhi-sultanate.php
- source:http://t3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQelxgNFvt2DW57MEekEQYLlqOTWsdzWArbkS_sGuVF98FZgwQw
- (Source :
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