

Teacher: Harmeet Kaur Sodhi

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

Answer:

Ananga Pala from the Tomara dynasty of Rajputs first established his capital at Delhi.

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

Answer:

The language of administration under the Delhi Sultans was Persian.

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

Answer:

The Sultanate reached its farthest extent during the reign of Muhammad Tughluq.

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

Answer:

Ibn Battuta travelled to India from Morocco, Africa.

5. 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 keep the interests of the peasantry in mind because the salaries of the military commanders came from the revenue collected from peasants. But the peasants could pay their revenue only when they were prosperous and happy. Therefore, it was imperative for military commanders to safeguard the interests of the peasantry.

6. What is meant by the “internal” and “external” frontiers of the Sultanate?

Answer:

‘Internal’ frontiers of the sultanate refer to the ‘hinterland’ of the garrison towns. The ‘external’ frontiers, on the other hand, refer to the areas beyond the hinterland of the garrison towns that included the unconquered territories especially in the southern parts of India.

7. 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:

In order to ensure that the *muqtis* performed their duties, their office was made non-inheritable. They were assigned iqtas for a short period of time and were transferred frequently.

The muqtis may have wanted to defy the orders of the Sultans because they did not like the conditions of service that were severely imposed on them..

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

Answer:

Mongol attacks on the Delhi Sultanate increased during the reign of Alauddin Khalji and in the early years of Muhammad Tughluq's rule. This forced the Sultans to undertake a number of expensive protective measures.

- They had to mobilise a large standing army in Delhi that posed a big administrative challenge.
 - They had to build new garrison towns for the soldiers.
 - They collected produce as tax from lands between the Ganga and Yamuna to feed their soldiers.
 - The soldiers also had to be paid cash that again put strain on the treasury.
- Result of all these protective measures was the weakening of the Delhi Sultanate.