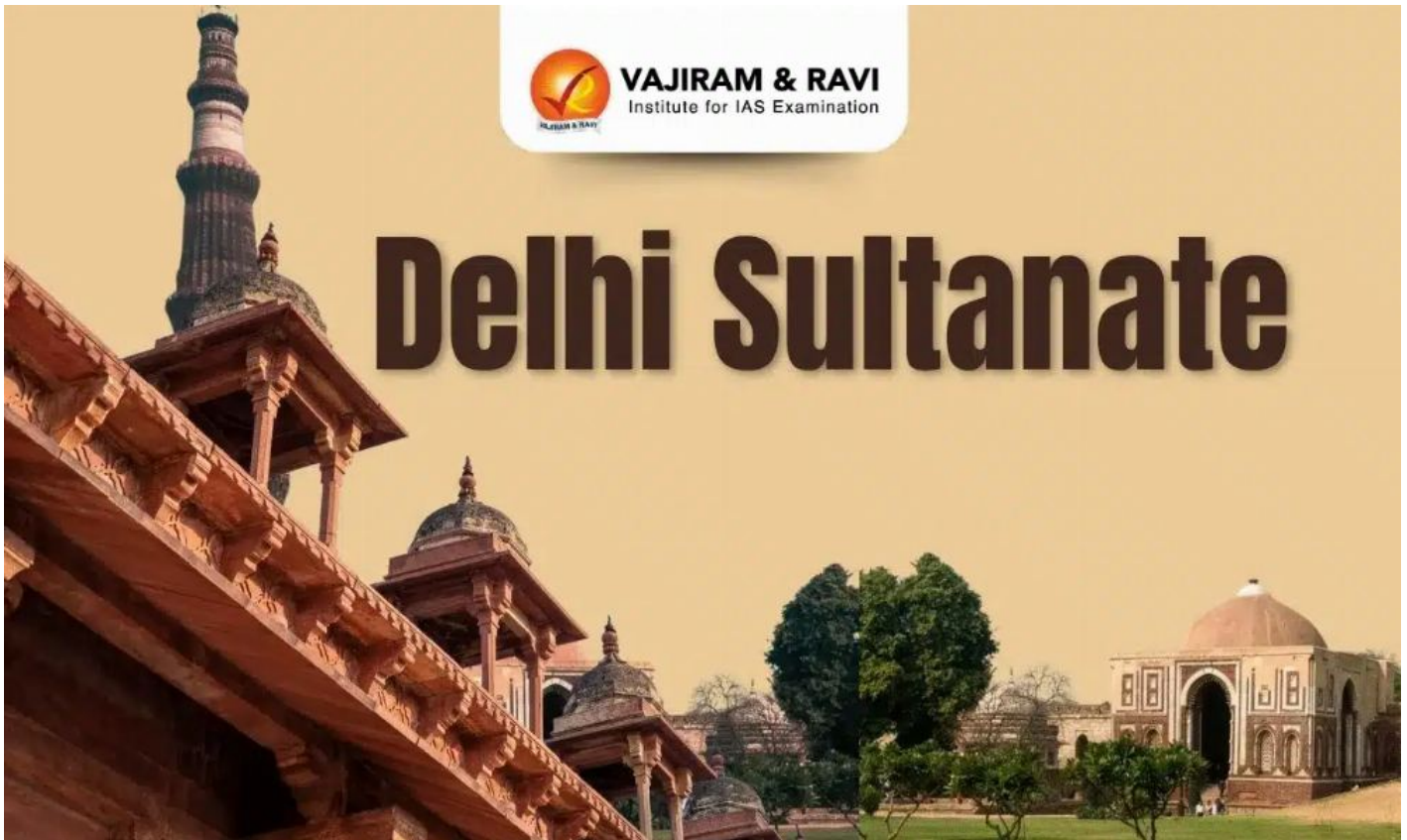


Emergence and Administration of the Delhi Sultanate

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Emergence of Delhi Sultanate:

The rulers who ruled substantial parts of North India between **1200 AD to 1526 AD** were termed Sultans, and the period of their rule was the **Delhi Sultanate**.

- These rulers were of **Turkish and Afghan origin**. They established their rule in India after defeating the Indian ruling dynasties, mainly **Rajputs** in northern India.
- The main ruler who was overthrown by the invading **Turk Muhammad Ghori** from Delhi was **Prithvi Raj Chauhan**.
- These Sultans ruled for more than 300 years (from around AD 1200 to 1526).
- During this period of around three hundred years, **five dynasties** ruled Delhi. All these dynasties are collectively referred to as the Delhi Sultanate.
 - **Mamluk Dynasty** (AD 1206–AD 1290) (popularly known as the slave dynasty),
 - **Khilji Dynasty** (AD 1290–AD 1320)
 - **Tughlaq Dynasty** (AD 1320–AD 1412)
 - **Sayyid Dynasty** (AD 1412–AD 1451)
 - **Lodi Dynasty** (AD 1451– AD 1526)

Ulema and the Learned in the Political Realm:

An institutional feature of the political discourse of the Delhi Sultanate was the presence of the **Ulema [theologians]** both at the court and in the provinces through the offices of the **Qazi** and officials operating the educational institutions.

- The **Ulema** is a group consisting of persons who performed the role of the preachers and guardians of **the Islamic religion**, and most of them had come from outside the **subcontinent**.
- Traditionally, they were committed to upholding the Islamic religious order and thus acted as **socio-moral censors** for the Muslim community.
- They held important positions in the **administrative system**, particularly in the judiciary. Prof.

Administration of Delhi Sultanate:

The administration of the Delhi Sultanate was divided into **three levels**:

- Central Administration
- Provincial Administration
- Local Administration

Central Administration:

The central administration in the Delhi sultanate during the period of **Ilbari Turks (slave dynasty)** was carried out mainly by trusted slaves who had helped the sultan to acquire the throne; or by the members of the **royal household and family**.

- **Loyalty** was, therefore, a prerequisite for holding the high office and being given the **highest rewards**.
- The **Sultan** was the head of the administration with all **military, administrative and legal powers**. A number of separate departments were created to look after different aspects of administration.
- **Wizarat**: After the seat of the sultan, the most important office in the sultanate was the **Diwani-Wizarat**, headed by the **wazir**.
 - He had under him a naib wazir.
 - The wazir [prime minister] was a **general supervisor** of all departments in the royal court.
 - **Primary function**: He looked after the **financial organisation** of the state, gave advice to the sultan, and on occasion, led military expeditions at the sultan's behest.
 - Supervising the payment to the army.
 - Kept a check on **land revenue collections** and maintained a record of all the income and expenditures incurred by the state.
 - Charitable donations such as **waqfs and inams**.
 - **Minor Departments under this office**:
 - **Mustaufi-i-Mumalik** [Auditor General, in charge of expenditure],
 - **Mushrif-i-Mumalik** [Accountant General, in charge of income]
 - **Majmuadar** [keeper of loans and balances from treasury].

- **Diwan-i-Waqoof** [introduced by Jalaluddin Khalaji to supervise expenditure only, i.e., after separating 'income' records from 'expenditure' records];
- **Diwan-i-Mustakhraj** [set up by Alauddin Khalaji to enquire into and realise arrears of revenue payments from the different parts of the empire]
- **Diwan-i-Amir Kohi**- It was set under Muhammad bin Tughlaq and was responsible for bringing uncultivated land into cultivation through state support.
- **Diwan-i-Arz**: The Diwan-i-Arz was instituted especially to look after the **military** organisation of the empire.
 - Headed by the **Ariz-i-Mumalik**. Ariz, along with his office, maintained the **royal contingents**, recruited the soldiers, and ensured the discipline and fitness of the army.
 - **Alauddin Khilji** introduced the **dagh (branding) and huliyah (description) system** and cash payment to soldiers. This was meant to strengthen his control over the army.
 - **Firuz Tughlaq** did away with the system of **dagh and huliyah**; however, **Muhammad Tughlaq** continued the dagh system.
 - Under **Sikandar Lodi** huliyah was referred to as **chehrah**.
- **Naib-ul-Mulk**: The Naib was the **deputy of Ariz** and was supposed to assist him in his many **administrative chores**.
- **Diwan-i-Insha**: Headed by the **Dabir-i-Khas**, looked after the department of royal correspondence.
 - The **Dabir** was the formal channel of communication between the centre and the other areas of the empire and was also a **private secretary to the Sultan**.
- **Diwan-i-Riyasat**: Important office during the reign of **Sultan Alauddin Khilji**.
 - **Function**: registered all the supplies of commodities and maintained standards in the markets [such as checking weights and measures, etc.].
- **Diwan-i-Risalat**: It was headed by the **Sadr-us-Sadr**, who was also the **Qadi-i-mumalik** and was responsible for the **administration of justice** and looked after the religious matters as **sadr-us-sadr**.
 - In the time of Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq, the complaints of the people were registered with the **Diwan-i-Risalat**.
- **Diwan-i-Mazalim**: Headed by the **Amir-i-Dad** in the absence of the **Sultan**.
 - His role was to supervise the **qadis**, **kotwal** (police) and **muhtasib** (Executive officer who supervised and enforced public morals and public conveniences).
- **Small departments**: Intelligence [like the **Barid-i-Mumalik**], the royal household [headed by the **Wakil-i-Dar**], court ceremonies [led by the **Amir-i-Hajib**], royal bodyguards [under the **Sar-i-Jandar**].

Provincial Administration:

- The Governor of the Province was the **chief executive officer** deputed by the **centre**.
- **The Sultanate** comprised provinces (iqta) placed in charge of **governors called wali or muqti**; later, provinces were partitioned into **shiqs** (administered by shiqdars) for **administrative convenience** and then shiqs partitioned into Pargana (local administration).
- **The faujdars assisted Shiqdar** in **maintaining law and order** during the **Tughlaq** period.
- **The function of the Governor**: collection of revenue, maintaining law and order and keeping the opposition to central authority under control, and maintaining a military unit under his command.

- Ariz helped the governor in these military duties, who looked after the **military contingents** under the governor's supervision. Ariz was placed under the **Ariz-i-Mumalik**.
- **Sahib-i-Diwan**: maintained **financial accounts** of the provincial income and expenditure.
 - He was assisted in his task by **mutassarifs and karkuns**.

Local Administration:

A number of villages formed a **Pargana**, but village and pargana were independent units of administration and yet **inter-related areas** over which officials commanded administrative powers.

- The villages were under the administrative supervision of the 12 Administrative and Institutional Structures following a set of officials:
 - **Muqaddam** (the village headman)
 - **Patwari** (village accountant)
 - **Khut** (village headman)
- The important pargana officials were:
 - **Chaudhary** (highest local rural magnate accountable to the government for land revenue collection),
 - **Mutasarrif or amil** (revenue collector)
 - **Karkun** (accountant)

Army Organisation:

- **Barani**, in his **Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi**, discusses the army organisation.
- The contingents stationed at **Delhi** were called **Hasham-i-qalb** and included, among others, royal slaves and guards.
- **Provincial contingents** were called **hasham-i-atraf**.
- **Garrisons** are mentioned in the time of **Qutbuddin Aibak**, which were placed under Kotwals.
- The central government directly paid soldiers in cash during the **Khiljis and Tughlaqs**. Sometimes soldiers were also paid through **itlaq (drafts)**.

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