

Module -1

HISTORY-DELHI SULTANS

Delhi became an important city only in the twelfth century. It was the capital of a kingdom under the Tomara Rajputs who were defeated in the middle of the 12th century by the Chauhans (also referred to as Chahamanas) of Ajmer.

Delhi Sultans

Under the Tomaras and Chauhans Delhi became an important commercial centre. Many rich Jaina merchants lived in the city and constructed several temples. Coins called dehliwal were minted here and had a wide circulation. Transformation of Delhi into a capital that controlled vast areas of the subcontinent started with the foundation of the Delhi Sultanate at the beginning of the 13th century. The Delhi Sultans built many cities in the area that we now know as Delhi.

Rulers of Delhi

RAJPUT DYNASTIES

Tomaras	Early 12 th century-1165
Ananga Pala	1130 to 1145
Chauhans	1165 to 1192
Prithivraj chauhan	1175 to 1192

EARLY TURKISH RULERS

Qutbuddin Aybak	1206 to 1210
Shamsuddin Iltutmish	1210 to 1236
Raziyya	1236 to 1240
Ghiyasuddin balban	1266 to 1287

KHALJI DYNASTY

Jalluddin Khalji	1290 to 1296
Alauddin Khalji	1296 to 1316

TUGHLUQ DYNASTY

Ghiyasuddin Tughluq	1320 to 1324
Muhammad Tughluq	1324 to 1351
Firuz Shah Tughluq	1351 to 1388

SAYYID DYNASTY

Khizr Khan	1414 to 1421
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LODI DYNASTY

Bahlul lodi	1481 to 1489
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Finding Out about the Delhi Sultans

Tarikh (singular)/tawarikh (plural) are valuable histories, written in Persian, the language of administration under the Delhi Sultans that provide a lot of information. It was written by learned men- secretaries, administrators, poets and courtiers, who both recounted events and advised rulers on governance, emphasising the importance of the just rule. Following ideas to keep in mind:

- (1) the authors of tawarikh lived in cities (mainly Delhi) and hardly ever in villages.
- (2) They often wrote their histories for Sultans in the hope of rich rewards.
- (3) These authors advised rulers on the need to preserve an “ideal” social order based on birthright and gender distinctions. Their ideas were not shared by every body.

In 1236-Sultan Iltutmish’s daughter, Raziyya became Sultan. The chronicler of the age, Minhaj-i Siraj, stated she was more able and qualified than all her brothers-He was not comfortable at having a queen as ruler. Nor were the nobles not happy at her attempts to rule independently. She was removed from the throne 1240.