

THE DELHI SULTANS (ADMINISTRATION AND CONSOLIDATION)

Class VII. HISTORY.

Slaves

- The Delhi sultans especially iltutmish, favoured their special slaves purchased for military service, called bandagan in Persian.
- The Delhi sultans appointed these slaves as governors and administrators of the Empire
- Since they were totally dependent upon their master, the Sultan could trust and rely upon them.

New kind of administrators.

- The Khaljis and Tughlaqs continued to use bandagan and also raised people of humble birth, who were often their clients, to high political position.
- They were appointed as generals and governors.
- However this also introduced an element of political instability.
- The accession of a new monarch often saw conflict between the old and the new nobility.

Iqta

- The sultans of Delhi appointed military commanders as governors of territories of varying sizes.
- These lands were called iqta and their holders was called Iqtadar or Mukti.
- The duty of the muqtis was to lead military campaigns and maintain law and order in their iqtas.
- In exchange for their military services, the mukt is collected the revenues of their assignments as salary.
- They also paid their soldiers from these revenues.
- Control over muqtis was most effective if their office was not inheritable and if they were assigned Iqtas for a short period of time before being shifted.

Revenue.

- As the Delhi Sultans brought the hinterland of the cities under their control, they forced the landed chieftains- the samanta aristocrats- and the rich landlords to accept their authority.
- Some of the old chieftains and landlords served the sultanate as revenue collectors and assessors.
- There were three types of taxes-
 1. On cultivation called kharaz and amounting to about 50% of the peasants produce.
 2. On cattle and
 3. On houses.

Homework.

1. Revenues under the Delhi sultanate.
2. Slaves as a part of the administration under Delhi sultanate.
3. Iqta system.