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Tender Heart High School,

Sector 33B, Chandigarh

21.10.24

Class IX

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Ms Rameet

Chapter 8 The Delhi Sultanate

Good Morning Students,

In this chapter we will study about the period between 1206 and 1506 when five dynasties ruled from Delhi. The Turkish invasion in India began much earlier. Mahmud of Ghazni made several invasions on India.

After him, Muhammad Ghori invaded India. When he went back he left the territories in charge of his able general Qutub-ud-din Aibak who laid the foundation of Delhi Sultanate.

Before we study about the important rulers and their policies, let us study about the sources to reconstruct the Delhi Sultanate. Among the literary sources are Tarikh-i-Firozshahi by Zia-ud-din Barani and Prithvirajraso by Chand Bardai. The inscriptions provide us with valuable information. They are found on coins, monuments, milestones and tombstones.

The Sultans of Delhi built massive and magnificent structures. One of such structure is Qutub Minar. It is situated in Delhi. Its construction was started by Qutub-ud-din Aibak and was dedicated to the Sufi saint Qutub-ud-din Bakhtiyar Kaki who was venerated by the people of Delhi. It was completed by Iltutmish in 1230.

Its special features were:-

- a) It has five storeys tapering as they ascend

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and separated from each other by projecting balconies. (tapering - meaning becoming thinner or narrower towards one end)

- b) The entrance to the tower is through the doorway on the northern side. Inside, there is a spiral stairway leading up to each balcony.
- c) Red sandstone, marble, grey quartzite were used to construct the tower.
- d) There are many writings carved into Qutub Minar. Floral motifs are also engraved on this tower.

We will now study about some important rulers and their policies. Qutub-ud-din Aibak ruled for four years only. So he did not get much time to work on the administration. It was because of his liberal distribution of money that he was called Lakhbakhsh or the giver of lakhs. He was succeeded by Iltutmish. Next came Raziya, Nasiruddin Mahmud and Balban respectively.

The successors of Balban were weak and Jalal-ud-din Khilji was able to come to the throne after the murder of Raziya and establish the rule of the Khilji dynasty. He ruled for a brief period of six years and could not bring about any important change in the administrative personnel or structure of his government.

Alauddin Khilji was a nephew and

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son-in-law of Jalal-ud-din and came to the throne by murdering his aged uncle. He embarked on the conquests and defeated most of the north Indian region rulers. The task of conquest of Deccan had been entrusted by Alauddin to his military commander Malik Kafur. But Southern India was not annexed. Its rulers had to acknowledge the supremacy of the Delhi Sultan and pay tribute to him.

Market regulations:- Since he maintained a large army on relatively small pay, he had to ensure that essential commodities were available at low prices. He had set up three markets at Delhi — one for food grains, the second for costly cloth, and the third for horses, slaves and cattle. The traders had to sell all commodities at the fixed rates. These regulations were enforced by two officers called *diwan-i-riyasat* and *shahana-i-mandi*. Those violating the regulations were severely punished.

Alauddin also took steps to control the nobility. The nobles were not allowed to hold parties or form marriage alliances without the permission of the Sultan. He also banned the use of wine and intoxicants. Gambling was forbidden and cash salaries were introduced for the soldiers.

Alauddin was also the first ruler of Delhi Sultanate to have a permanent standing

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army. He started the practice of branding of horses, to maintain good quality horses in the army. The system of 'chehra' was also introduced which kept the record of the identity of every soldier.

Revenue Reforms:- Alauddin also initiated a series of revenue and administrative measures to increase his resources. He introduced the practice of measuring the land and fixing the share of the state accordingly. He also increased the land revenue from one-third to one-half of the produce.

After the Khiljis, came the rule of the Tughluq dynasty. Its founder was Ghiyas-ud-din Tughluq. But the most important ruler of this dynasty was Muhammad-bin-Tughluq. He was a man of considerable ability and the only Sultan to have received good education. We will now study about his policies which made him quite unpopular.

Transfer of Capital - In 1327, Muhammad bin Tughluq decided to transfer his capital from Delhi to Devagiri with a view to having the capital situated in the middle of his kingdom. Moreover, Delhi was continuously threatened by Mongol raids. The Sultan ordered people to shift to Devagiri. He was bent upon taking all the inhabitants of Delhi to the new capital. No one liked the forced move. The people suffered greatly from fatigue and hardship. As

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soon as the Sultan was convinced of the failure of his scheme, he ordered the people to return to their homes in Delhi.

Token Currency:- In 1329, the Sultan introduced the token currency which meant introduction of bronze tanka in place of silver tankas. This experiment also failed. Soon the forged coins manufactured by people at their homes came into circulation. Trade and business came to a standstill. So he had to withdraw the currency.

Taxation in Doab:- In 1326, Muhammad bin Tughluq increased the taxation in the Doab (the territory between rivers Ganga and Yamuna). Unfortunately, at this very time there occurred a severe famine because of the failure of rains. The people offered resistance, but the Sultan's officers continued to realize taxes mercilessly. The cultivators were, therefore, forced to abandon their lands. Later the Sultan tried to help the cultivators by giving them loans.

All these failures affected the prestige of the ruler. It led to rebellions in various parts of the kingdom. The other two dynasties of Delhi Sultanate were the Sayyids and the Lodis.

Sultanate Administration

The Sultan was the chief executive of the state. He was also the highest judicial authority and Commander-in-Chief of the army.

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The Sultan however could not manage the task of administration single handed. So he was assisted by a number of ministers. The wazir was the Prime Minister. The minister incharge of army was ariz-i-mumalik. The diwan-i-irisalāt dealt with religious matters. The qazi was the chief judge. The empire was divided into provinces, districts and villages.

Students, please read the chapter again and complete the following home assignments.

Short Questions 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8.

Structured Questions 1(a, b) ; 2(a, b, c) ; 3(a, b, c)
4(a, b, c) ; 5(a, b, c)