

Delhi Sultanate

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Delhi Sultanate : Summary history. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

Rulers and Their Reigns

The Delhi Sultanate



Ruler & Reign	Key Facts & Events
Qutbuddin Aibak (r. 1206-1210)	- Died in 1210 while playing a game of Polo (Chaugan). - Initiated the construction of the Qutb Minar.
Iltutmish (r. 1211-1236)	- Completed the construction of the Qutb Minar. - Refused asylum to the Khwarezm prince Jalaluddin, who was being pursued by Chengiz Khan. - Created the group of forty nobles known as Chahalghani or Turkan-i-Chahalghani.
Raziyya Sultan (r. 1236-1240)	- The Sultan of Delhi. - Only female rulers of the Delhi Sultanate.
Balban (r. 1266-1287)	- Introduced the Persian festival of Nauroz to the Delhi court.

Jalaluddin Khalji (Founder)	- Murdered by his nephew, Alauddin Khalji (Ali Gurshasp), in 1296.
Alauddin Khalji (r. 1296-1316)	- Created the 'Diwan-i-Riyasat', a department to regulate economic and market affairs. - Demanded half the produce as land revenue after measurement.
Muhammad Bin Tughluq (r. 1325-1351)	- Notorious for his failed plan to transfer the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad (Devgiri) in 1327 CE. - His reign saw the visit of the traveler Ibn Battuta. - Introduced a failed token currency system.
Firuz Shah Tughluq (r. 1351-1388)	- Constructed five canals for irrigation. - Died in 1388.

The Mughals and Others



Ruler & Reign	Key Facts & Events
Sher Shah Suri (r. 1540-1545)	- An Afghan ruler who established the Sur Empire, briefly interrupting Mughal rule. - Built the "Sadak-i-Azam" (Grand Trunk Road) from Sonargaon to Lahore. - His son and successor was Islam Shah Suri (r. until 1553), who reformed the military.
Akbar (r. 1556-1605)	- The third and one of the greatest Mughal emperors. - Implemented the Ain-i-Dahsala system for land revenue assessment. - Fought against Maharana Pratap at the Battle of Haldighati (1576).
Jahangir (r. 1605-1627)	- Received the British Ambassador Sir Thomas Roe at his court.

Foreign Travelers and Their Visits

Chronology of Arrival

The correct chronological order of their arrival is:

1. **Al-Biruni** (c. 973-1048): Came with Mahmud of Ghazni.
2. **Ibn Battuta** (1304-1369): Visited during Muhammad Bin Tughluq's reign.
3. **Jean-Baptiste Tavernier** (1605-1689): Visited during Shah Jahan's reign.
4. **Niccolo Manucci** (1639-1717): Served Dara Shukoh.

Traveler Origins and Works

Traveler	Origin	Work & Role
Al-Biruni	Khwarizm (Uzbekistan)	A scholar who wrote on India.
Ibn Battuta	Morocco	Wrote 'Rihla'; appointed Qazi of Delhi by Muhammad Bin Tughluq.
Marco Polo	Venice, Italy	Visited the Pandya kingdom.
Abdur Razzaq	Iran	An ambassador who visited Vijayanagara under Deva Raya II.
Nuniz	Portugal	Traveler who visited Vijayanagara.
Jean-Baptiste Tavernier	France	Gem merchant; wrote 'Travels in India'.
Niccolo Manucci	Italy	Wrote 'Storia do Mogor'.

Historical Events and Chronology

Year	Event
261 BC	Battle of Kalinga: Fought by Emperor Ashoka.
1192 CE	Second Battle of Tarain (Mohammad Ghori vs. Prithviraj Chauhan).
1210 CE	Death of Qutbuddin Aibak.
1296 CE	Murder of Sultan Jalaluddin Khalji.
1327 CE	Transfer of capital to Daulatabad by Muhammad Bin Tughluq.
1388 CE	Death of Firuz Shah Tughluq.
1498 CE	Arrival of the Portuguese (Vasco da Gama) on the coast of Kerala.
1509-1529 CE	Reign of Krishnadeva Raya of Vijayanagara.
1757 CE	Battle of Plassey: Robert Clive vs. Siraj-ud-Daulah; beginning of British political power in India.

Cultural, Administrative, and Social Terms

Term	Description
Polo (Chaugan)	A game introduced to India by the Turks. Qutbuddin Aibak was a keen player.
Dastar-Bandhan	A term for highly respected Ulema (Islamic scholars/judges) during the Sultanate period.
Nauroz	A Persian new year festival introduced to the Delhi court by Sultan Balban.
Jauhar	A medieval practice of mass self-immolation by Rajput women to avoid capture. Distinct from Sati.
Naimittika	The designation for a state astrologer in the pre-medieval

	kingdoms of Rajasthan.
Village Headmen Titles	Pattakila or Gramakuta (Maharashtra); Mahattara or Mahattaka (U.P., could also be head of artisans).

Regional Kingdoms and Rulers

Vijayanagara Empire

Ruler	Reign	Key Facts
Krishnadeva Raya	1509-1529	One of its greatest emperors; authored 'Amuktamalyada' in Telugu.
Deva Raya II	1424-1446	Ruler when the Iranian ambassador Abdur Razzaq visited.

Other Kingdoms and Rulers

Kingdom / Event	Ruler at the Time of Conflict
Ranthambore (conquered by Alauddin Khalji)	Hamirdeva
Chittoor (besieged by Alauddin Khalji)	Rana Ratan Singh
Devgiri (attacked by Alauddin Khalji)	Raja Ramchandra (Yadava dynasty)
Gujarat (raided by Alauddin Khalji)	Karandeva (Vaghela dynasty)
Ahmednagar & Bijapur	Chand Bibi (Brave female regent, not of Oudh)
Gujarat Sultanate	Bahadur Shah
Malwa Sultanate	Baz Bahadur

Architecture & Monuments

Monument	Location	Facts
Qutb Minar	Delhi	Initiated by Qutbuddin Aibak; completed by Iltutmish.
Adina Masjid	Pandua, West Bengal	Constructed by the Bengal Sultan Sikandar Shah (c. 1360).
Jahaz Mahal	Mandu, Madhya Pradesh	A famous palace built during the reign of Sultan Ghiyasuddin Khalji.

Literature & Authors

Author	Work
Sadrudin Muhammad 'Auji'	Lubab-ul-Albab, Jawamiul-Hikayat (First to mention the magnetic compass in Indian seas)
Abdul Wahid Bilgrami	Haqaiq-i-Hindi
Ibn Miskawayh	Tahdhibul Akhlaq
Bailaq al-Qabayaki	Kunzal Tijar
Mahendravarman I (Pallava King)	Mattavilasaprahasana (Sanskrit play)
Krishnadeva Raya	Amuktamalyada (Telugu)

Economy & Agriculture

- **Crops (13th-14th Centuries):** Indian peasants cultivated wheat, barley, rice, sugarcane, and cotton.
- **Maize** was **not** cultivated as it was introduced later by the Portuguese.

Know More About Delhi Sultanate : Summary:

- [Delhi Sultanate : Miscellaneous– Old Year Questions and Answers](#)
- [Delhi Sultanate : Miscellaneous One Liner Questions & Answers](#)

