

# Delhi Sultanate: Administration

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Delhi Sultanate administration 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.

## Delhi Sultanate: Administration & Governance

### 1. Nature of the State



- The historian Barani did not consider it a truly Islamic state because the majority of the population was non-Muslim.
- The Sultan's regulations (**Zawabit**) often supplemented or overrode traditional Muslim law (**Sharia**).

### 2. Origin of Rulers

- Most Sultans and high nobles (**Amirs**) belonged to the **Turkish** class.

### 3. Key Administrative Departments

Department (Diwan-i-)	Primary Function	Created / Instituted by
Arz	Military Department	Balban
Wizarat	Finance Department	-
Risalat	Religious Matters & Foreign Affairs	-

Insha	Royal Correspondence	-
Bandagan	Department for Slaves	Firuz Shah Tughluq
Mustakhraj	Checking Revenue Corruption & Theft	Alauddin Khilji
Amir Kohi	Agriculture Department	Muhammad Bin Tughluq
Khairat	Department of Charity	Firuz Shah Tughluq

## Delhi Sultanate: Revenue & Taxation

### 1. The Iqta System

- **Introduced by:** Iltutmish.
- **Nature:** A **revenue assignment system** where officials (**Iqtadars** or **Muqtis**) were granted the right to collect revenue from a territory instead of a cash salary.
- **Revenue Flow:** Revenue was **not** directly deposited into the Sultan's account. The Muqti used it to cover local administrative costs and maintain troops for the Sultanate.
- **Primary Source:** The **Siyasatnama** written by Nizam al-Mulk.

### 2. Revenue Officials

- **Amil:** The official in charge of revenue collection in a district.
- **Chaudhary:** The supreme rural official for land revenue (village headman).

### 3. Types of Taxes

Tax	Purpose / Nature
Kharaj	Land tax
Jizya	Tax on non-Muslims
Ushr	A 10% tax on crops (levied by Firuz Tughluq)

Khums	Tax on war booty (1/5th share to the state); not a land tax
Zakat	Tax for religious purposes on Muslims (alms)
Sharb	Tax levied on irrigation
Fawazil	The excess amount collected by Iqtadars after meeting their expenses, paid to the central treasury

## Delhi Sultanate: Law & Society

- **Zawabit:** State laws or regulations issued by the Sultans, which supplemented Islamic law.
- **Hadis:** Islamic law based on the traditions and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad.

## Delhi Sultanate: Currency & Coinage

### 1. Primary Currencies



- The two main currencies were the **Tanka** (silver) and the **Jital** (copper).

### 2. Introduction of Coins

- **Iltutmish** introduced:
  - The silver **Tanka**
  - The copper **Jital**
  - The silver **Shashgani** coin
- **Exchange Rate:** 1 Tanka = 48 Jitals

### 3. Caliph's Name on Coins

- The name of Caliph **Mustansir** appeared on the coins of **Iltutmish**.
- The name of the last Caliph of Baghdad, **Al-Mustasim**, appeared for the first time on the coins of **Sultan Alauddin Masud Shah** (1242-1246 AD).

## Know More About the Delhi Sultanate:

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

