



The Sultanate of Delhi

The Delhi Sultanate is a term used to cover five short lived dynasties, Delhi based kingdoms or Sultanate, the first three of which were of Turkish origin, the fourth was the Sayyid and the last was the Lodi.

Foundation of Delhi Sultanate

- By the end of the 12th century, Mohammed Ghori was successful in occupying Delhi and started a dynasty of rulers which, together with some later dynasties, came to be called the **Delhi Sultanate**.
- Ghori's sudden death in 1206 resulted in a scramble for supremacy among his three generals- **Qutub-ud-din Aibak** (commander of his army), **Tajuddin Yalduz** (ruled Karman and Sankuran between Afghanistan and Sindh) and **Nasiruddin Qubacha** (held Uchh).
- At the time of Ghori's death, Aibak was at Lahore. Ghiyas-ud-din Mahmud, the successor of Ghori, acknowledged Aibak as the independent king and gave him the title of Sultan of Delhi.
- The assumption of sovereign powers by Qutub-ud-din Aibak in 1206, is regarded as the foundation of the Sultanate of Delhi and the first ruling dynasty of the Sultanate.

The Slave Dynasty (AD 1206-1290)

- The first dynasty of the Sultanate has been designated by various historians as the Slave dynasty or the Mameluq dynasty or the Ilbari dynasty. Recognition as all rulers of this dynasty except Qutub-ud-din, belonged to the Ilbari tribe of Turks.

Qutub-ud-din Aibak **(AD 1206-1210)**

- Captial **Lahore** and later **Delhi**. He was the first Muslim king in India and the founder of Ilbari dynasty. For his generosity he was known as **Lakh Bakhsh** or (giver of Lakhs). Aibak was a great patron of learning and patronised writers like **Hasan-un-Nizami** and **Fakhruddin**.
- **Tazul Maasir** of Hasan Nizami is a work primarily dealing with Aibak. He began the construction of Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque (Delhi), Adhai Din Ka Jhopra (a mosque at Ajmer) and Qutub Minar, 72 1/2 metre (238 feet) stone tower in Delhi (after the name of Khwaja Qutub-ud-din Bakhtiyar Kaki), a Muslim saint. The construction of Qutub Minar was finally completed by Iltutmish, his successor.
- In 1210, while playing Chaugan (Polo) at Lahore, he fell off his horse and died of injuries.

Shams-ud-din Iltutmish **(AD 1211-1236)**

- Iltutmish was a slave of Qutub-ud-din Aibak. By sheer ability he rose to be his son-in-law and the Governor of Badaun. He ruled for a quarter of a century and proved a very strong and worthy ruler and completed the work of Aibak.
- In 8 years, between AD 1226 and 1234, he conquered Ranthambore (1226), Mandawar (1227), Bayana, Jalor, Gwalior, Malwa, Bhilsa, Ujjain and Bengal (1231).
- Iltutmish defeated Yalduz in the **Battle of Terrain** (1217) and killed him. Likewise, in 1228 he carried a march against Qubacha and put him to death, who were Ghori's slaves.
- A notable event of the reign of Iltutmish is that for the first time the Mongols came as far the frontiers of India.
- In AD 1221, the Mongol Chief, **Changez Khan**, one of the mightiest conquerors the world has ever seen, reached the Indus in pursuit of an enemy **Jalal-ud-din**, King of Khwarizm or Khiva, Iltutmish at this time saved the Sultanate by refusing to give any shelter to Jalal-ud-din.

- It was he who gave the country a capital, a sovereign state, a monarchical form of government and a governing class or nobility, known as **Turkan-i-Chahalgani** or Chalisa (a group of forty) which was the ruling elite of the period.
- He divided his empire into numerous big and small iqtas and assignment of land in lieu of salary, which he distributed to his Turkish officers.
- He issued the coins of silver (tanka) and copper (jital) to facilitate trade and commerce. These coins being the first purely Arabic coins issued from Delhi.
- Iltutmish patronised Minhaj-us-Siraj, author of 'Tabaqat-i-Nasiri'. He built Gandhak-i Baoli, a stepwell for sufi saint Qutub-ud-din Bakhtiyar Kaki, who moved to Delhi during his rule.

Razia Sultan (ADI 236-1240)

- Iltutmish nominated his daughter Razia, as his successor. Razia became the first lady Sultan of India.
- Razia discarded **purdah**, held the court attired in the male dress and commanded the army herself. She defeated the Wazir, Nizam-ul-Mulk Junaidi, who had opposed her elevation and conquered Ranthambhore.
- But her attempt to create a party of nobles loyal to her and the appointment of a non-Turk. (Abyssinian) noble, Jamal-ud-din Yakut the high office led to opposition. For these reasons the Governor of Lahore (Kabir Khan) and Bhatinda (Altunia), revolted. She personally led the expedition against Lahore and suppressed the revolt.
- On her way back to Delhi, Yakut was killed and Razia was imprisoned at Tabarhinda. She married Altunia, but under a conspiracy she and her husband were murdered near **Kaithal** in AD 1240.
- The contemporary historian Minhaj- us-Siraj accepts that she was having the ability of a great king, but the only weakness was that being a woman. Her rule marked the beginning of a struggle for power between the monarchy and the Turkish chiefs ('the forty' or

“Chahalgani’.) She was succeeded by Bahram Shah.

Nasir-ud-din Mahmud (AD 1246-1266)

- Nasir-ud-din was the son of Iltutmish. He was very gentle, studious, and pious and on account of his simple habits is known in history as the **Darvesh King**.
- In the struggle between monarchy and Chahalgani, the Turkish chief Balban became the real ruler of the state. He was assigned the post of Naib-i-Mamlakat (vice-regent) and got the title of Ulugh Khan.
- Balban replaced **Imaduddin Raihan** to the post of ‘Wazir’ during Mongolian invasion.

Ghiyas-ud-din Balban (AD 1266-1287)

- Balban was an Ilbari-turk. His original name was Bahauddin. He was the slave of Iltutmish and gradually he occupied the throne of sultan.
- In order to destroy the power of Turk-e-Chihalgani, he propounded a new theory of kingship. Balban projected monarchy as semi-divine institution. He declared himself to be a successor of Afrasiyab, an Iranian warrior.
- He maintained that kingship was the Niyabat-i-Khudai (gift from God) and took the title Jil-i-llahi (shadow of God on Earth).
- In his court he introduced some formalities like Sijda (prostration) and Paibos (Kissing of feet). The Iranian festival of Nauroz or New Year was celebrated in the court. An official **Amir-e-Hajib** was appointed to regularise the proceedings of the court.
- The law and order situation in and around Delhi had deteriorated. The **Mewati Rajputs** plundered the country and had made life, property and trade unsafe in the Doab. To deal with these elements Balban adopted a policy of Blood and Iron. The most important event of the reign of Balban was the suppression of the Bengal revolt.
- The army establishment was separated from the rest of the Civil Department. A separate Military Department known as **Diwan-i-**

wizarat and **Diwan-i-Arz** was established.

- Tughril Khan the Governor of Bengal was defeated.
- In order to strengthen the monarchy, Balban reorganised the **Central Military Department** Diwan-i-Arz. Likewise, he organised the espionage department under an officer **Barid-I-Mumalik**.
- The well known **Hindi** and **Persian** poet **Amir Khusrau** (AD 1235-1325) who was called the **Parrot of India** adorned the court of **Balban**.
- Balban was succeeded by Kaiqubad. The last ruler of this dynasty was Kayumars who was killed by Jalauddin Khilji.

Salve Sultans	Years
Qutub-ud-din Aibak	(AD 1206-10)
Aram Shah	(1210-1211)
Shamsuddin Iltutmish	(1211-1236)
Ruknuddin Firoz	(1236)
Raziya	(1236-1240)
Baharam Shah	(1240-1242)
Alauddin Masud	(1242-1246)
Nasiruddin Mahmud	(1246-1265)
Ghiyas-ud-din Balban	(1265-1287)
Kaiqubad	(1287-1290)
Shamsuddin Kayumars	(1290)

Khilji Dynasty (AD 1290-1320)

- The coming of Khilji's to power was more than a dynastic change. Khiljis were basically Central Asians in origin.

Jalal-ud-din Khilji (AD 1290-1296)

- Jalal-ud-din seized Ranthambore from the Chauhans, conquered Ujjain and desecrated the idol in the main temple. He made Kilokhari as his capital.
- One of the most important event of his reign was the invasion of Devagiri, the capital of the Yadava king, Raja Ramachandradeva.

Aia-ud-din Khilji (AD 12961316)

- He was the greatest ruler of the Khilji dynasty and was the first Muslim ruler to extend his empire right upto the extreme South of India. Ala-ud-din was the first ruler of Delhi Sultanate who did not ask for Manshur (letter of investiture) from the Caliph, but called himself the Deputy of the **Caliph**.

Attack of Mongols During Ala-ud-din's Reign

Years	Mongol Leaders	Sultanate Commanders	Battle Field
1297-98 1299	DawaKhan Saldi	UlughKhan Zafar Khan	Julandhar Siwistan in lower Sindh
1299	Qutlugh Khan	Zafar Khan (died in battle)	Killi (near Delhi)
1303	Targhi	Ala-ud-din Khilji	Doab Area (Delhi)

Ala-ud-din's Conquests

States	Native King	Sultanate's Commanders	Consequences
Gujarat (1297)	Rai Karan (Solankis)	Nusrat Khan and Ulugh Khan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plunder of Somnath temple.• Nusrat purchased Kafur Hazar Dinari.• Ala-ud-din married chief queen Kamla Devi.
Rantha- mbore (1301)	Rana Hammir Deva	Ala-ud-din Khilji, Nusrat Khan, Ulugh Khan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nusrat Khan died.• jauhar ceremony by women.

States	Native King	Sultanate's Commanders	Consequences
Chittor	Ratan Singh (Gahilot)	Ala-ud-din Khilji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ala-ud-din's son Khizr Khan was given governorship of Chittor. Chittor renamed Khizrabad.
Deogir	Ram Chandra Deva (Yadavas)	Malik Kafur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deva honoured with golden canopy and title of Rai Rayan. Ala-ud-din married Deva's daughter Jhapali.
Warrangal in Telangana (1309-10)	Pratap Rudra Deva II (Kakatiya)	Malik Kafur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King surrendered and agreed to pay annual tribute to Delhi. Pratap gave Kohinoor diamond to Malik Kafur.
Dwarsa-mudra	Ballal Devaor Vira Ballal III(Hoysalas)	MalikKafur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual tribute to Delhi.
Madurai (1311)	Vira Pandya and Sundara Pandya (Pandyas)	MalikKafur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devastation of Nataraja temple at Chidambaram.
Jalor (1311)	Kanhar Deva	Malik Kamal-ud-din	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fortress of Jalor seized.

Administrative Measures for Prevention of Rebellions

- The sale and use of liquor and intoxicants was prohibited. He forbade parties and marriage relations among the nobles without his permission. He confiscated many jagirs and estates and stopped all pensions and allowances. All religious endowments and grants of lands (waqf and inam) by the state were revoked. He established network of spies all over his kingdom known as **Munhiyan**. Apart from this, Barids (news reporter) were also appointed. There was a trading class known as Banjaras on whom Alauddin Khilji relied heavily to transport grains to the city markets.

Revenue/Agrarian Reforms

- Zabita regulation Biswa declared as the standard unit of measurement of cultivable land. Land revenue (Kharaj) was fixed at half of the produce. Brought farmers in direct relation with the state and curbed middlemen (Khuts, Choudharis, Muquaddams). Establishment of a new Revenue Department Diwan-i-Mustakharaj.
- Khuts were a new set of intermediaries who arose at the parganah or shiq (district) level. Amir Khusrau, for the first time, referred to them as Zamindars. Ghari (house tax) and charai (grazing tax) were levied.

Market Control

- Three separate markets at Delhi for foodgrains, costly cloths, horses, slaves and cattle were established. The markets were controlled by two officers, Diwan-i-Riyasat and Shahana- i-Mandi.
- Foodgrains were stocked at the warehouses set-up by the state itself and were released during famine or shortage of supply. The Karwanis or Banjaras carried the grains from villages to Delhi. No hoarding was allowed and all merchants were registered at state daftars.

Military Reforms

- He was the first Sultan of Delhi to lay the foundation of a permanent standing army.
- Realisation of land revenue in cash enabled Alauddin to pay his soldiers in cash. He was the first sultan to do so. Direct recruitment of the soldiers by **Arz-i-Mamalik**. Introduction of Daag (branding the horses) and Huliya or Chehra (descriptive rolls of soldiers) system. Horses

were sold directly to the Military Department (Diwan-i-Arz).

Introduction of three grades of soldiers

- Foot soldiers
- Soldiers with one horse (ek-aspa)
- Soldiers with two horses (do-aspa)

Art and Learning

- Both Amir Khusrau and Mir Hasan Dehlvi enjoyed his patronage. He built a new city called **Siri**, enlarged the Qutabi mosque and erected a gateway. He built the Jamait Khana Masjid at the dargah of Nizam-ud-din Auliya and Alai Darwaza near Qutub Minar. He began the construction of Alai Minar near Qutub Minar, but could not complete it.

The Tughlaq Dynasty (AD 1320-1414)

Ghias-ud-din Tughlaq (AD 1320-1325)

- He was the first Sultan of Delhi to add the word Ghazi after his name. A code of law for the Civil Government was drafted by him. He was on bad terms with the famous **Sufi** saint Nizamuddin Aulia. He laid the foundation of a big palace fort which came to be known as **Tughalaquabad**. The first Sultan credited with digging canals for the promotion of agriculture.

Mohammed-bin-Tughlaq (AD 1325-1351)

- He has been represented by contemporaries as one of the wonders of the age in which he lived. He was well versed in various branches of learning i.e. **astronomy**, mathematics, medicine, philosophy etc.
- Formulated 'famine-code' to provide **relief to** famine affected people. To improve agriculture, he created the Department of Agriculture (Diwan-i-Amir Kohi). He **is** the first sultan to advance loans known as **Sondhar to** peasants for digging well to extend cultivation.
- The Chinese emperor, Toghan Timur sent an envoy to Delhi in 1341 seeking Mohammed's permission to build Buddhist temples in the Himalayan region. He also sent Ibn Battuta as envoy to the court of the Mongol Emperor of China.

Five Ambitious Projects

- Sultan raised the taxation level in Doab area.
- Transfer of capital from Delhi to Deogiri.
- Introduction of token currency of bronze coins.
- Quarachil (Kumaon Hills of Himalayas) Expedition.
- Proposed Khurasan Expedition.
- Revolts During Moharnmed-bin-Tughlaq
- **States/ Native King/Viceroy Consequences Places Governor**
- Sagar Bahauddin Gurshap Gurshap was defeated and he
- took shelter with the Hindu Rai of Kampila.
- Kordhana Nag Nayak Nag Nayak was defeated and
- forced to sue for peace.
- Multan, Uchh Bahram Aiba entitled Kishlu Khan was defeated
- and Sindh Kishlu Khan and killed.
- Vijayanagar Harihara and Bukka The independent state of
- Vijayanagara was founded.
- Madura Hasan or Sayyid Independent rule at Madura Ahsan Shah was established
- Bahamani Bahman Shah Independent state of
- Bahmani was founded.

Firoz Shah Tughlaq (AD 1351 -1388)

- Firoz Tughlaq was termed as the Akbar of Sultanate period by Henri Elliot and Elphinstone.
- Shaikh Nasiruddin Chiragh Dehlari was one of the most popular mystics of the reign of Firoz.
- The imperial court of Delhi had been turned into a centre of culture, due to the influx of a large number of poets, philosophers, jurists and historians.
- The most remarkable contribution was made in the science of astronomy. Books like Ziqr-Munsobat Kawakib, Zigr- Munsobat, Burooj and Shikar Nameh of Fateh Khan were written.

- The Sultan also opened a large number of hospitals (Dar-ul-Shafa) where medicines used to be distributed free to the people.
- He established an Employment Bureau to provide work to unemployed. He also created an endowment fund.
- Revived the Jagir system which had been abolished by Ala-ud-din and granted it to his military in lieu of cash salaries. The Iqtas granted and the post of officials and soldiers was made hereditary. A separate department for slaves, Diwan-i-Bandagan, was established.

Economic Reforms

- He waived off all debts which the late Sultan had advanced to the agriculturists and reduced the rates of land revenues.
- His most important contribution was the introduction of a series of canals for irrigation purpose.
- The taxation policy was based on the Islamic law of Shariat. Only five taxes were imposed
 - Kharaj-revenue from cultivated land
 - Jaziya-alms
 - Jaziya—poll tax on the non-Muslims
 - Khams-tax on produce of mines Sharb irrigation tax
- He reduced Octroi duties on trade.
- He introduced two fractions of mixed copper and silver coins.
 - Ad ha half jital
 - Bikh quarter jital
- **Shashghani** or six jital piece was also in use.

Public Works, Art and Architecture

- Firoz was the first Muslim king to undertake works of public utility and was also known as the **lover of gardens**.
- He founded the town of Jaunpur, Fatehabad, Hissar, Firozpur near Badaun and Firozabad. During his Bengal campaign he renamed Ikdalsa as Azad and pandua as Firozabad.

- He brought two of the Ashokan Pillar to Delhi from Khizrabad and Meerut.
- He was a patron of learning and patronised Barani and Afif. **Shams-i-Siraj Afif** was the official historian of Firoz's reign.

Religious Intolerance by Firoz

- Firoz tried to win over the theologians by proclaiming that he was a true Muslim king. He demolished many Hindu temples and is supposed to have burnt a Brahmin for preaching Muslims.
- He separated Jaziya from land revenue and also imposed it on Brahmins.
- He even ordered to erase the beautiful wall paintings in his palace.
- For the first time in the history of Muslim India he styled himself as the deputy of the Khalifah of Egypt.

The Sayyid Dynasty (AD 1414-51)

Khizr Khan (AD 1414-1421)

- He was the founder of the Sayyid dynasty. He was appointed by Timur-e-lang as his nominee in Delhi. He ruled as a deputy of Timur's son and successor, Shah Rukh.

Mubarak Shah (AD 1421-1434)

- He was the ablest ruler of the dynasty. He subdued the rebellions at **Bhatinda** and **Doab** and the revolt by Khokhars chief Jasrat. He was succeeded by Mohammed Shah and Alauddin Alam Shah was the last ruler.

Rulers of Sayyid Dynasty	Years
Khizr Khan	AD 1414-21
Mubarak Shah	AD 1421-34
Mohammed Shah	AD 1434-45
Al-ud-din Alam Shah	AD 1445-51

Lodhi Dynasty (AD 1451-1526)

Bahlol Lodhi (AD 1451-1489)

- Bahlol Lodhi was the founder of this dynasty. (AD 1451-89) He tried to restore the greatness of Delhi Sultanate, hence, conquered territories surrounding Delhi. The most successful war was against **Mahmud Shah Sharqi** of Jaunpur.
- **Bahlol Lodhi Conquered** Mewat (Ahmed Khan), Sambhal (Dariya Khan), Koll (Isa Khan), Suket (Mubarak Khan), Manipur and Bhongaon (Raja Pratap Singh), Rewari (Qutub Khan), Etawah and Chandwar.

Sikandar Lodhi (AO 1489-1517)

- Bahlol Lodhi was succeeded by his able son **Nizam Shah** under the title of Suttan Stkandar Shah in AD 1489. He was the ablest of the three Lodhi rulers. He conquered Bihar and Raja of Tirhut and concluded a friendship treaty with **Ala-ud-din Hussam Shah** of Bengal. Dariya Khan was appointed as the Governor of Bengal. He set-up an efficient espionage system and introduced the system of auditing the accounts.
- He relaxed restricted on trade, which greatly promoted the economic prosperity of the people. He introduced 'Gaz-i-Sikandari (Sikandar's yard) of 39 digits or 32 inches, for the measurement of agricultural land. He transferred his capital from Delhi to Agra, a city which was founded by him. The village of Sikandara, near Agra, where the tomb of Akbar stands, was named after Sikandar.
- He was staunch Sunni and a Muslim fanatic. He lacked religious tolerance and levied Jaziya and Pilgrim's tax on Hindus. He was a liberal patron of arts and letters. He wrote verses in Persian under the pen name of Gulrukhi.

Ibrahim Lodhi (AD 1517-1526)

- There were many revolts during his reign. Bihar declared its independence under Dariya Khan Lohani. His repressive policy towards the Lohani and Lodhi tribes and his unsympathetic treatment of Dilawar Khan, Governor of Lahore, turned the nobles against him.

First Battle of Panipat, 1526

Daulat Khan Lodhi (father of Dilawar Khan) and Alam Khan invited Babur the Timurid ruler of Kabul, to invade India. Babur defeated Ibrahim and killed him. He became the master of Delhi and Agra. This put an end to the Sultanate and Mughal dynasty was established in India. This was one of the earliest battles involving gunpowder firearms and field artillery.

Administration Under Sultanate

Central Administration

- The real administrator of Delhi Sultanate was the king or sultan himself. There was no hereditary principle of succession. The sultans of Delhi were considered to be the agent of God and it was his duty to enforce the divine laws expressed by the Holy Quran.
- The Wazir was the most important minister in the Sultanate administration.

Departments Under Central Administration

Departments	Founders	Works
Diwan i-Wizarat		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headed by Wazir• Prime Minister and also headed Finance Department.• Functionaries associated were Mushrif-i-Mamalik (Accountant-General) and Mustaufi-Mamalik (Auditor-General).
Diwan-i-Ariz	Balban	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Military Department• Headed by Ariz-i-Mamalik• Recruited troops, fixed and disbursed their salaries and held periodical review or inspection of the forces.
Diwan-i-Insha	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headed by Dabir-i-Mamalik.• Also known as Dabir-i-Khas and Amir Munshi.

Departments	Founders	Works
Diwan-i-Risalat	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Royal Correspondence and kept record of royal courts. • Headed try chief Qazi called Sadr-us-Sadar. • Dealt with religious affairs of state.
Diwan-i-Qaza	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headed by Qazi. • Department of Judicial Administration.
Diwan-i-Waqf State Khiljj	Jalal-ud-din	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Grants and Expenditure.
Diwan-i- Mustakharaj	Ala-ud-din Khlljl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Revenue Collection.
Diwan-i-Riyasat	Ala-ud-dln khiliji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Market Control.
Diwan-i-Amir Kohi	Mohammed -bin- Tughlaq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Agriculture,
Diwan-i- Bandagan	FirozShah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Slaves.
Diwan-i-Khairat	Firoz Shah Tughlaq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Welfare Works.

Judicial Administration

- The sultan was the highest judicial authority of Delhi Sultanate. He was a perfect autocrat with wide powers in his hands. The Department of Judiciary was known as **Diwan-i-Qaza**, which was headed by Qazi.

Revenue Administration

- The Fiscal Policy of Sultanate was based on the theory of taxation as propounded by the Hanafi School of Thought, which prescribed the levy of five kind of taxes i.e. Zakat religious tax paid by the Muslims for the benefit and welfare of their co-religionists. It was charged at the rate of 2.5% of the actual income or property.
- **Amil** He was the officer in-charge of revenue collection.

- **Kharaj** It was the land revenue tax. Generally, it was charged at the rate of one third of the agricultural produce and was payable in cash or kind.
- **Khams** It refers to the state's share of the booty acquired by the soldiers in the course of war. It was 1/5th of the war booty.
- **Jaziya** It was a tax charged from Hindus in their capacity as Zimmis.
- **Ushar** Land tax collected from muslim peasants.

The Iqta System

- Mohammed Ghauri was the first ruler to introduce the Iqta system. But Iltutmish gave it an institutional form. He divided his empire into several large and small tracts of land called **Iqta** and assigned them to his **soldiers, officers** and **nobles**. The holders of the office were called **Iqtadar, Muqti** or **Walli**.
- The collection of land revenue was integrated with the Military system, as also with the system of provincial government through the Iqta. In the context of the revenue system, the term Iqta means the land or land revenue assigned by the ruler to an individual on certain conditions.
- The holders of the Iqta served the Sultans. They were bound to present themselves, with horses and arms, whenever called upon by the **Central Government** for service or inspection. Balban found a lot of corruption and mismanagement among the assignees or the Iqta holders.
- But he took another step to supervise Iqta holders. He appointed his sons to important provinces as Governors and created the office of Khwaja.
- It was a sort of diarchy though in a very limited sense. Though, Iqta was chiefly the incharge and the Khwaja his subordinate, the fact that the latter was responsible to the Central Government gave him a sort of authority and made him an obstacle in the way of independence of the muqta. Thus, Khwaja was a civil official and he had to deal with accounts and records.

- Ala-ud-din brought most of the small Iqtas back into the Khalisa 'by a stroke of the pen'. But under Firoz it became hereditary.

Sultanate Literature

Books

Alberuni
 Alberuni
 Alberuni
 Minhaj-us-Siraj
 Amir Khusrau
 Zia-ud-din Barani
 Zia-ud-din Barani
 Firoz Shah
 Firoz Abadi
 Hassan Nizami
 Abu Bakr
 Fakhruddin
 Shams-i-shiraj Afif
 Ibn-Battuta
 Isami
 Firdausi

Authors

Tahkik-i-Hind
 Qanun-i-Masudi
 Jawahar-i-Jawahar
 Tabaqat-i-Nasiri
 Laila-Majnu, Quran-us-Saadin
 Khazain-ul-Futuh
 Tughlaqnama
 Nuh-Siphir
 Miftah-ul-Futuh
 Ayina-i-Sikandari
 Hasht Bihisht
 Shirin Khusrau
 Tarikh-i-Alai
 Fatawa-i-Jahandari
 Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi
 Fatawa-i-Firoz Shahi
 Qamus
 Taj-ul-Maathir
 Chach Namah
 Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi
 Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi
 Kitab-ul-Rehla
 Futuh-us-Salatin
 Shahnamah

Sanskrit Books Written in Sultanate Period

Writers

Parthasarthi Mishra
Jai Singh Suri
Ravi Verman
Vidhyadhhar
Vamanbhat Bann
Gangadhar
Rupgoswami

Books

Shahstradipika on Karmamimansa.
Hamir Mardan.
Pradyuman Abhyudya.
Prataprudra.
Parvati Parinaya.
Gangadas Pratap Vilas.
Vidgadhm- Adhavand Lalitmadhav.

Music

- With the coming of Turks, number of musical instrument: came into India like Rabab and Sarangi. Most of the Sultanate rulers patronised music.
- Balban encouraged the setting up of a society of dancers and musicians.
- Ala-ud-din Khilji patronised musicians such as Gopal Nayak and Amir Khusrau, who were conferred the title of Nayak or Master Khusrau introduced Pero-Arabic ragas such as Aiman, Ghosa, Sanam, Iman Zilb and Sazagiri. He is also credited with having invented the sitar.
- Music was banned under Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq's reign, but it was encouraged by Mohammed-Bin-Tughlaq. Firo; Shah Tughlaq is said to have been very fond of music. He got the Indian classical work Ragdarpan translated into Persian.

Painting

- The Sultanate painting shows an attempt to arrive at a fusion of the newly introduced Persian and Indian traditional style. Many of the illustrated manuscripts show the influence of Jain and Rajasthani painting styles.
- Out of the Sultanate painting tradition emerged these major sub styles Mughal, Rajasthani and Deccani schools, all of which displayed an individuality while bearing some common elements.

Sultanate Architecture

Structures	Locations	Builders
Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque	Delhi	Qutub-ud-din Aibak
Adhai din ka Jhopra	Ajmer	Qutub-ud-din Aibak
QutubMinar	Delhi	Iltutmish (Founded by Qutub-ud-din Aibak)
Tombof Hazarat Nizamuddin	Delhi	Ala-ud-din Khilji Auliya
Alai Darwaza	Delhi	Ala-ud-din Khilji
Jammat Khana Masjid	Delhi	Ala-ud-din Khilji
Tombof Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq	Delhi	Mohammed-bin- Tughlaq
Tughlaqabad Fort	Delhi	Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq
Moth ki Masjid	Delhi	Wazir Miya Bhoiya (Prime Minister of Sikandar Lodhi)