



# Delhi Sultanate

## Quick Revision Notes for RRB Group D 2025

### Introduction

Feature	Details
Period	1206 CE - 1526 CE
Founding Sultan	Qutb-ud-din Aibak
Last Sultan	Ibrahim Lodi (defeated by Babur in 1526)
Capital	Delhi
Major Dynasties	1) Mamluk (Slave)- 1206-1290 CE 2) Khalji- 1290-1320 CE 3) Tughlaq- 1320-1414 CE 4) Sayyid- 1414-1451 CE 5) Lodi- 1451-1526 CE
Sources of Information	Amir Khusrau (poet, chronicler), Ziauddin Barani, Ibn Battuta (traveler)
Origin	Mostly Turkic & Afghan rulers
Achievements	Centralized administration, expansion of empire, Indo-Islamic architecture

### Important Rulers and Contributions

Dynasty	Ruler	Period	Contribution
Mamluk	Qutb-ud-din Aibak	1206-1210	Founder, laid foundation of Qutb Minar, established Delhi as capital
Mamluk	Iltutmish	1211-1236	Consolidated empire, introduced Iqta system, recognized by Caliph of Baghdad
Mamluk	Raziya Sultan	1236-1240	First and only female ruler of Delhi Sultanate



Khalji	Jalal-ud-din Khalji	1290-1296	Founder of Khalji dynasty
Khalji	Alauddin Khalji	1296-1316	Expanded empire to South India, market reforms, revenue reforms, defended against Mongols
Tughlaq	Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq	1320-1325	Founded Tughlaq dynasty, strengthened administration
Tughlaq	Muhammad bin Tughlaq	1325-1351	Known for experiments: token currency, shifting capital (Delhi → Daulatabad)
Tughlaq	Firoz Shah Tughlaq	1351-1388	Irrigation works, forts, mosques, population reforms
Sayyid	Khizr Khan	1414-1421	Founder, weak rulers, dependent on regional chiefs
Lodi	Bahlul Lodi	1451-1489	Founder of Lodi dynasty, Afghan origin
Lodi	Sikandar Lodi	1489-1517	Consolidated empire, founded Agra
Lodi	Ibrahim Lodi	1517-1526	Last Sultan, defeated by Babur (First Battle of Panipat)

## Administration and Economy

Aspect	Details
Political System	Centralized monarchy with provincial governors
Administration	Iqta system (land revenue assignment), Wazir (Prime Minister), Diwan (finance), Qazi (judge)
Military	Cavalry-based army, elephants, forts at strategic locations
Revenue System	Land revenue major source, trade taxes, market regulations
Economy	Agriculture, trade (internal & overseas), crafts, handicrafts, coinage
Currency	Tanka (gold/silver), Jital (copper)
Trade Centers	Delhi, Multan, Gujarat, Bengal, Malwa



## Society, Religion and Culture

Category	Features
Religion	Islam dominant among rulers, Hindu majority populace, Sufi influence
Society	Hierarchical, caste distinctions persisted among Hindus, introduction of Sharia law in administration
Culture	Indo-Islamic architecture, mosques, tombs, forts, Qutb Minar, Alai Darwaza, Tughlaqabad Fort
Literature	Amir Khusrau - poet, historian; Barani - chronicler of Delhi Sultanate
Education	Madrasas established, Persian language and literature flourished
Arts	Miniature paintings, calligraphy, ornamental architecture

## Quick Facts and Exam Oriented Q&A

Question	Answer
Founder of Delhi Sultanate?	Qutb-ud-din Aibak
First female Sultan?	Raziya Sultan
Sultan who shifted capital to Daulatabad?	Muhammad bin Tughlaq
Sultan known for market reforms?	Alauddin Khalji
Last Sultan defeated by Babur?	Ibrahim Lodi
Which dynasty built Tughlaqabad Fort?	Tughlaq dynasty (Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq)
Major architectural contributions?	Qutb Minar, Alai Darwaza, Tughlaqabad Fort, mosques
Main source of revenue?	Land revenue
Persian literature patronized by?	All Delhi Sultans, especially Alauddin Khalji & Tughlaqs
Religion introduced by rulers?	Islam (state religion), Sufism spread among masses

## Expected Questions for Exams



Question	Answer
When did Delhi Sultanate begin and end?	1206-1526 CE
Name the five dynasties of Delhi Sultanate.	Mamluk (Slave), Khalji, Tughlaq, Sayyid, Lodi
Who founded the Mamluk dynasty?	Qutb-ud-din Aibak
Who was first female ruler of Delhi Sultanate?	Raziya Sultan
Which Sultan expanded empire to South India?	Alauddin Khalji
Who introduced token currency and shifted capital?	Muhammad bin Tughlaq
Last ruler of Delhi Sultanate?	Ibrahim Lodi
Which Sultan built Qutb Minar?	Qutb-ud-din Aibak (completed by Iltutmish)
Main system of administration?	Iqta system
Which traveler wrote about Delhi Sultanate?	Ibn Battuta