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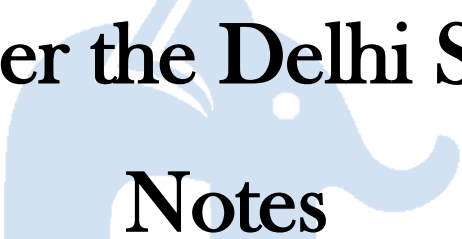
# **Class 7 - ICSE**

# **History**

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# Life under the Delhi Sultanate

## Notes



## INDO ISLAMIC CULTURE

- The establishment of the Delhi Sultanate marked the beginning of a new phase in the political, social, economic, and cultural history of India.
- For more than three centuries (1206-1526) there was a deep influence of Turks, Afghan rulers and traditional Indian cultures, from which new patterns of Indo-Islamic culture emerged.



## SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE

### Society:

Society during the Sultanate period was divided into four major groups-

- Aristocracy
- Priests
- Town Dwellers
- Peasants

### Aristocracy:

- It was the ruling class and most powerful social group ever.
- People of this class used to enjoy seafaring lifestyle due to having wealth power.



**Fig. Aristocracy**

- In this It consisted of the sultan, the nobles, the Hindu rajas and princes and the landlords.

Priests:

- Brahmins, ulema, qazis, Maulvi used to come in this group.
- Ulema and Brahmins held important positions in this group.
- Brahmins and Ulema held important positions in the administration.
- The ulemas were the advisors of the Sultans and the Brahmins were the heads of the Hindu society.
- Except for a few Sultans, the ulemas were kept happy in the rest of the court.



**Fig. Priests (Ulemas, Brahmanas)**

His participation in administration was major.

Town Dwellers:

- The town dwellers consisted of officials, artisans, craftspeople,
- merchants, slaves and domestic servants.
- The merchants were prosperous.

Peasants:

- Farmers were poor and hard working.

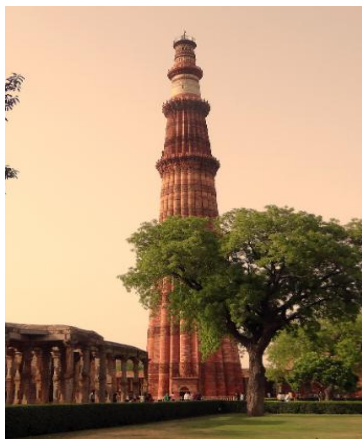


**Fig. Hard working farmer**

- During the time of Muhammad bin Tughlaq, the condition of the farmers was very bad due to excess tax and bad weather.
- Whereas, due to the concessions of Firoz Shah's time, his condition improved a lot.
- The contribution given by the farmers was the main source of revenue of the government.
- The caste system was very rigid among the Hindus, inter-caste marriages were not allowed.
- Many Hindus, especially those belonging to the lower classes, were attracted to Islam and converted to Islam.
- Some converted to Islam only to avoid the Jizya tax imposed on Gay Muslims.
- Sati system, child marriage system, curtain system were widely prevalent.
- Purdah was strictly followed by Muslim women.

**Architecture:**

- The Turks brought with them the Arabic-Persian architectural style, a harmonious blend of the classical style of Hindu architecture to form the Indo-Islamic style.
- Bricks, arches, domes, beams, etc. were widely used during the Sultanate period.
- Verses from the Quran are engraved on the walls of the buildings.



**Fig. Important Architectural Monument**

- Qutub Minar, Alai Darwaza, Ghiyasuddin's Tomb, Firoz Shah Kotla, Tughlaqabad Fort, Lodi Sultan's Tomb are the important buildings of the Sultanate period.

**Music and dance:**

- Perso Arabic + Indian Classical music = Hindustani music
- New Musical instrument table, sitar, sarangi were developed during this time.
- South Indian Veena + Persian tanpura = Sitar by famous Persian poet Amir Khusrau.



**Fig. Musical Instrument Sitar**

- Hindu theme+ Persian costumes = Kathak.
- Chorus sung in Persian style by Sufi saints known as qawwali.

### **Painting:**

- Rajput style miniature painting continued during the Sultanate period as well.
- Rajput painters were greatly influenced by Persian style miniature painting and this art was patronized by the later sultans.

### **Other Culture Changes:**

- During the sultanate, new customs completely changed the traditional way of life of the Indians.
- Like Hindu Muslims used to wear kurta pyjama, kaftan, salwar kameez even then and are still wearing it today.
- New types of foods like biryani bread part of Indian food style.
- The Yunani system of medicine result of the interaction with the Arab traders.
- After the marriage of Indian Muslims by the Turkish ruler, there was a change in their cultural traditions.
- Caste system also changed a lot

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- After Turkish rule was established in India, Persian replaced Sanskrit in official works in many areas.
- Sanskrit did not re-emerge even after patronage by some kings.

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