



**SOURCES OF MEDIEVAL
INDIAN HISTORY (PART-2)**
**मध्यकालीन भारतीय इतिहास के
स्रोत (भाग-2)**

(UG , SEM-4, PAPER MJC-7)

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SOURCES OF SULTANATE PERIOD (सल्तनत काल के स्रोत)

A large number of contemporary sources survive till date that help us in the reconstruction of the period of Delhi Sultanate.

(A) Literary Sources (साहित्यिक स्रोत)

Arabic and Persian Sources

- ▶ *Abu Raihan Al-Biruni, Kitab-ul-Hind* English translation by E.C. Sachau, *Al-Biruni's India*: It provides a valuable knowledge of the society and culture of Indian people during the 11th century.

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- ▶ *Ali Kufi, Chachnama, 1216-17*: It is a Persian version of early 8th century Arabic work which primarily deals with Arab conquest of Sind (712) and contemporary rulers of Sind.
- ▶ *Fakhr i Mudabbir, Adab ul Harb wa Shuja'at, 1228*: It deals mainly with the art of warfare.
- ▶ *Alauddin Ata Malik Juwaini, Tarikh-i-Jahankusha*: It is an important account of the Mongol from the time of the rise of Chengiz Khan. It gives information on Chengiz Khan's pursuit against Jalaluddin Mangbarni in the cis-Indus region.

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- ▶ *Nizam ul Mulk Tusi, Siyasatnama*: It is a detail account of the institution of slave-household, their training etc. during the rule of early Turkish Sultans.
- ▶ *Sadruddin Hasan Nizami, Taj-ul-Maasir*: It is the first official account of the Delhi Sultanate. It deals with the campaigns of Muizuddin Muhammad Sam, Qutb-ud-din Aibak and Iltutmish. It covers the period from 1191 to 1229.

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- ▶ *Minhaj-us-Siraj*, *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri*: Minhaj held the posts of qazi, khatib, sadr-i-jahan and principal of Nasiriya madrasa. *Tabaqat* begins from the account of Prophet and terminates at Nasiruddin Mahmud (1266). It is the most authentic source for the study of early Turkish dynasties. It provides a comprehensive study on campaigns, Sultans, *maliks*, *amirs* and *ulemas* etc.

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- ▶ *Amir Khusrau*: He was one of the most professional historian, greatest writer and poet of the early medieval India. His account covers five Sultans-Balban, Jalaluddin Khalji, Alauddin Khalji, Mubarak Khalji and Ghiyasuddin Tughluq. He was the first Persian poet who used Hindi/Sanskrit words in his writings. His principal works are:
 - ▶ (i) *Miftah-ul-Futuh*: Contains an account of the military campaigns of Jalaluddin Khalji in poetry.

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(सल्तनत काल के स्रोत)

- ▶ (ii) *Qiran us Sadain*: Deals with Bughra Khan's meeting with his son Kaiqubad. It also depicts the contemporary society.
- ▶ (iii) *Dewal Rani Khizr Khan*: It is a *masnavi* on romantic adventures of Khizr Khan, son of Alauddin Khalji with Dewal Rani daughter of Rai Karan of Gujarat. It also contains a brief account of Alauddin's expeditions.
- ▶ (iv) *Khazain-ul-Futuh or Tarikh-i-Ilahi*: It is a historiographical composition in prose which describes the conquests and other achievements of Alauddin Khalji.

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- ▶ (v) *Tughluq Nama*: It was composed to commemorate the victory of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq over Khusrau Khan (1320) leading to the establishment of a new ruling dynasty.
- ▶ (vi) *Ijazi-Khusravi*: It is primarily a collection of letters, documents, petitions etc. drafted by Amir Khusrau.

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- ▶ *Yahya Sirhindi's Tarikh-i Mubarak Shahi, 1434-35:* It covers the history from Shihabuddin Muhammad Ghori onwards. This account is significant for the study of nobles during the Saiyyid period.
- ▶ *Ibu Fazlullah al Umari, Masalik Absar,* a voluminous Arabic work, contains important information regarding the socio-economic conditions during the reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq.

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- ▶ **Isami's, *Futuh-us-Salatin*:** This work is dedicated to Alauddin Bahman Shah. It covers a period of 350 years (999-1350). It is written in versified form. Isami is highly critical of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq's projects while applauds the achievements of Alauddin Bahman Shah.
- ▶ **Ziauddin Barani's *Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi* and *Fatawa-i-Jahandari*:** Barani joined the service of Muhammad bin Tughlaq in 10th year of his reign and remained in the service for 17 years. But later he had to leave the job in disgrace during Firoz Shah Tughlaq's reign.

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Barani's **Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi** (1259-1359) preserves the history of the Delhi Sultanate for a full century.

- ▶ **Fatwai-Jahandari** is primarily a work on political philosophy and was written in continuation of **Tarikh-i- Firuz Shahi** and sums up the ideas which are already mentioned by Barani in his **Tarikh**. It contains ideas and aspirations of governing class. Barani has emphasized the concept of free born and condemned the 'law born'. It deals with king, justice, army, intelligence etc. It also describes Islamic theory of Kingship.

SOURCES OF SULTANATE PERIOD (सल्तनत काल के स्रोत)

- ▶ ***Firuz Shah Tughlaq's Futuhat-i-Firuz Shahi:*** It provides an insight into the thoughts and policies of Firuz Shah Tughlaq.
- ▶ ***Shams Siraj Afif's Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi:*** It is a detailed account of Firuz Shah Tughlaq's reign. This work was composed after Timur's invasion of India. Afif praises the peace and prosperity prevailing during the reign of Firuz Shah Tughlaq.

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- ▶ *Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi's Zafarnama, 1424-25:* It provides important information of Timur's invasion.
- ▶ *Muhammad Daud Shadiabadi's Miftah-ul-Fuzala, 1468-69:* A Persian lexicon, comprises useful sketches that is helpful in understanding the development of technology during the Sultanate period.

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Malfuzat Literature

Malfuzat literature may be defined as discourses, conversations, and sermons delivered by the Sufis in the assemblies of learned persons and recorded by their disciples.

- ▶ **(i) Amir Hasan Sijzi's, *Fawaid-ul-Fuad*:** It contains the conversation of Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya from 1307 to 1322. It throws valuable light on the religion, culture and literature of the period.

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- ▶ (ii) *Hamid Qalandar, Khair-ul-Majalis*: It is a compilation of the conversation of Shaikh Nasiruddin Chirag Dehlavi. This work is not only important for the study of mysticism but also provides valuable importance about the market control policy of Alauddin Khalji, impact of Mongol invasion etc.

(To be continued)