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ESTABLISHMENT OF DELHI SULTANATE

Administrative Terms

1. AMIR-UL-UMRA

Meaning Commander of commanders- title granted by the Caliph to generals who were able to carve out a separate sphere of authority.

2. CHAHALGANI

Meaning- 'the forty'- Turkish chiefs. Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (1167-1236) after ascending to the throne, realised that Turkish nobles were not trustworthy and could conspire against him to overthrow his rule. Therefore, he had a group of faithful slaves to protect him. This group was known as Amir-i-Chahalgani, or The Forty.

3. CHHATRA

royal insignia. Chhatra was perhaps the most important symbol of sovereignty and, along with fly-whisk (chamara), was held in greater estimation than even the crown. Hence the king is par excellence the chatrapati or the Lord of the umbrella.

4. DIWAN I ARZ

military department. The diwan-i arz or military department was headed by the ariz-i mumalik. He was responsible for the administration of military affairs. He inspected the troops maintained by the iqta-holders. He also supervised the commissariat duties (supply and transport) of the Sultan's army.

5. DIWAN-I-RISALAT

dept of religious matters- headed by 'sadr'. The diwan-i risalat was headed by the sadrus sudur. He was the highest religious officer. He took care of the ecclesiastical affairs and appointed qazis.

6. DIWAN-I-INSHA

dept of state correspondence. The diwan-i insha' looked after State correspondence. It was headed by dabir-i mumalik. This department dealt with all correspondence between the Sultan and other rulers, and between the Sultan and provincial governments. It issued jarmans and received letters from subordinate officials.

7. DIWAN-I BANDAGAN

Department of Slaves. During the reign of Firuz Shah Tughlaq, a separate department of slaves (diwan-i bandagan) was set up. The slaves were used for personal service and acted as body-guards.

8. WAKIL-I-DAR

Officer in charge of the deptt. of slaves (Diwan-i bandagan) under Firuz Tughlaq.

9. SIJADA AND PAIBOS

Prostration and kissing of monarch's feet – under Balban The practice was started by Sultan Bulban to reinstate the prestige of the crown among the nobles and the people.

10. BARIDS

intelligence agents. The barid-i mumalik was the head of the State news-agency. He had to keep informed of all that was happening