HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL INDIA

Civil Services Examination
History of Medieval India

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7.1 Invasions from North-West

Arab Invasion

Muslim rule in the sub-continent began in 8th Century AD when the Arab general Muhammad bin Qasim conquered Sindh and Multan in south Punjab (now in Pakistan). The main focus of Arabs was the expansion of their policy of conquest in India to spread Islam and form an Islamic empire. Moreover, Arabs were attracted by wealth of India. The Persian text of Chach Nama provides adequate information on Arab Invasion of North-West India. Reasons for failure of Arabs to build a permanent empire in India:

- Imprisonment of Muhammad bin Qasim by the new Khalifa.
- New Khalifa’s indifferent attitude towards desert Sindh province.
- Diversion of Arab attention due to fight over Khilafat or Caliphate.
- Bravery and Heroism of Indian rulers.
- Long distance between Baghdad and Sindh.

Impact of Arab Rule in Sindh

- Conversion of Sindh population to Islam, albeit on a very limited and temporary scale.
- Laying the foundation of Islam in India.
- Introduction of formal slavery system in India.
- Promotion to Arab trade.
- New Arab settlements on sea-coast.

Mahmud of Ghazni

Mahmud was ruler of Ghazni in Afghanistan. He invaded India seventeen times during AD 1000 to AD 1026. His first expedition was directed against the frontier towns in 1000 AD. In his second expedition, Ghazni encountered Hindushahi King Jaipal in 1001 AD, whom he defeated in the first Battle of Waihind. In the later expedition, Mahmud Ghazni looted the famous Somnath temple (dedicated to lord Shiva) in AD 1025 situated on the sea coast of Kathiawar. The objective of Mahmud expedition was to strengthen his political power in central Asia and to plunder the richest temples and places. He did not wish to establish an empire in India despite having control over major parts of Punjab and Sind.

Muhammad Ghor\n
Also known as Shahabuddin Muhammad, he is considered to be the real founder of the Muslim Empire. In AD 1175, he invaded Multan followed by Punjab and Sind. In addition to looting India, he had a firm belief of establishing a permanent Islamic empire in India. In the first battle of Tarain in AD 1191, Muhammad Ghor was defeated by Prithviraj Chauhan, the ruler of Ajmer and Delhi.

However, in the second Battle of Tarain in AD 1192, the coin turned towards Ghor in which he successfully defeated Prithviraj Chauhan. The defeat is marked as the turning point in the history of India.
Five ruling dynasties of Delhi sultanate:
1. Mamluks or Slave dynasty (1206 – 1290 AD)
2. Khaljis (1290 – AD 1320)
3. Tughlaqs (1320 – AD 1412)
4. Sayyids ( 1412 – AD 1451)
5. Lodis ( 1451 – AD 1526)

7.2 Mamluk Sultans (1206-90 AD)

Introduction

Mamluk is an Arabic word meaning “owned”. It was used to distinguish the imported Turkish slaves meant for military service from the lower slaves used as domestic labour or artisan. The earliest ruler of Delhi Sultanate were the Mamluks. They were also known as Slave kings because many of them were either slaves or were the sons of slaves who became sultans. After the death of Ghori in 1206 AD, his dynasty was divided into multiple parts and Qutb-ud-din Aibak became the Sultan of Delhi and founded the Slave Dynasty. The Muslim Mamluk rulers ruled over India from AD 1206 to AD 1290.

Qutb-ud-din Aibak (1206-10 AD)

Qutb-ud-din Aibak was one of the most skilled warrior who served the dynasty after Muhammad Ghori’s death in AD 1206. He had played a pivotal role in furthering his empire in India, especially after the second Battle of Tarain.

- He is considered as the real founder of Delhi Sultanate and was the first independent Muslim leader from Northern India.
- He was called as Lakha Baksh Sultan or giver of lakhs due to his generosity.
- Qutb-ud-din Aibak was brave and faithful
- Qutb-ud-din Aibak initiated the construction of Qutb Minar, which was completed by his successor Ilutmish after his death.
- He also constructed Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque in Delhi and Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra in Ajmer.

Aram Shah (1210-1211 AD)

After the death of Qutb-ud-din Aibak, the Amir and Malik of Lahore put Aram Shah on the throne. He served for a short duration and was considered to be a weak and worthless ruler. The Governor of Badaun, Ilutmish defeated Aram Shah and acquired the throne.

Ilutmish was the second most prominent ruler of the Mamluk dynasty. The caliph of Baghdad had titled him as “Sultan”. During his tenure, he had to face multiple difficulties. Many important commander Ali Mardan Khalji, Nasir ad-din Qabacha and Taj al-din Yildiz contested for independent territories. The rising power of Mongols under Genghis Khan possessed great threat to North-West Frontier of the Sultanate. Despite of such great threat, he successfully overcame it with many achievements. He constituted a corp of forty (40) loyal Slave Amirs known as Turkan-i-Chihalgani also called as Chalisa.

- In the field of administration, Ilutmish made significant contributions such as ‘currency system’, ‘army’ and ‘Iqtas’.
- He initiated ‘Iqta-dar System’ in which lands were granted to nobles and his officers instead of salary.
- Ilutmish completed the construction of Qutb Minar and also built a mosque.
- Ilutmish attempted to establish a centrally recruited army with a view to increase the military muscle of the Sultan. He contributed by introducing the Silver Tanka and the billion Jital, the two coins in circulation during the period.

Ilutmish’s tenure of twenty six years can be classified into three broad phases:

- **First Phase (1210-20 AD):** When he was preoccupied with disposing off rival contender to his authority.
- **Second Phase (1221-27 AD):** During this period, he dealt with Mongol Menace.
- **Third Phase (1228-36 AD):** This was an important period during which he devoted himself in consolidating his dynasty.
Razia Sultan (1236-40 AD)

Razia Sultan was the only woman ruler during the Sultanate and Mughal period. Ilutmish considered all his sons ineffective for throne and entrusted her daughter Razia as his successor. She was a great administrator as she maintained complete law and order during her tenure. Razia successfully defeated the rebellions of Multan, Lahore and Hansi.

She appointed Abyssinian slave, Jamal-ud-Din Yakut as Master of Horse (amir-i-akhur). The Turkish noble nobles and clergy, who were primarily Turkish did not consider her as their ruler and conspired to kill her. Razia reign came to an end in 1240 AD.

Nasir-ud-din Mahmud (1246-66 AD)

Nasir-ud-din Mahmud was the grandson of Ilutmish who was proclaimed as the ruler of the Sultanate from 1246 AD -1266 AD. He was considered to be kind hearted and God fearing ruler. He spent most of his times writing down verses of the Quran. Unlike many of his predecessors and successors, Mahmud strictly followed monogamy. Nasir-ud-din Mahmud married daughter of Balban and placed all the power in the hand of his prime minister, Balban. According to Ibn Battuta and Islami, Balban poisoned Nasir-ud-din and ascended the throne.

Ghiyas-ud-din Balban (1266-87 AD)

Introduction

Ghiyas-ud-din Balban, a Turkish slave was also known as Ulugh Khan, the power of dynasty after the death of Nasiruddin Mahmud. During Balban tenure, the law and order in Delhi and doab region was in poor state. The Rajput zamindars had set up forts in the eastern region of Awadh and Ganga-Yamuna doab. Balban worked hard to elevate the position of Sultan and maintain the autocratic rule.

Balban’s reign is known as a period of consolidation rather than expansion. Balban first ventured to assert in upper India where the Meos, or the people of Mewat, had become so emboldened as to routinely plunder the capital city even in the daylight. Balban built a fort at Gopalgar and several thanas. He endeavoured to subdue the doab which was seething with rebellion. Balban’s tenure brought many administrative and military changes:

- Balban introduced the ritual of Sijadah (Prostration) and Paibos (Kissing the feet) in order to dignify the status of the Sultan.
- Balban reorganised the army and maintained an efficient spy system.
- Balban fortified his empire against Mongol invasion.
- Balban ordered the nobles to stop the luxury living.
- Balban introduced the Persian festival of Navroz to impress the Nobles and people with his wealth and power.
- Balban patronized many Muslim scholars and gave shelter to many refugees from central Asia.
- Balban re-organised the military department (diwan-i-arz) and deployed army in different parts of the country.

Balban was considered to be the main architect of the Sultanate of Delhi mainly in terms of government and institutions. After his demise in 1287 AD, his grandson Qaiqabads succeeded the throne. During this period, the government affairs fell into disorder and the Nobles began to form factions in order to seize power. Jalaluddin Khalji, the Ariz-i-Mamalik (minister of war) gathered all the power in his hand and murdered Qaiqabad. This brought an end to the Slave dynasty in 1290 AD and the new dynasty of Khalji emerged under the leadership of Jalaluddin Khalji.

Theory of Kingship of Balban

Balban was the first ruler of the Delhi Sultanate to articulate a comprehensive theory of kingship.
Balban’s theory of kingship was greatly influenced by Sassanid Persia. He asserted that the king was the shadow of God (Zillah). Balban’s belief that he was only accountable to the almighty and his actions were immune from public scrutiny.

**Sijada and Paibos**

He introduced Sijada (prostration) and Paibos, kissing of feet of the monarch. Balban believed in patriarchal despotism. His conviction was that only a despot could extract obedience from his subject and ensure the security of state. The greatest contribution of Balban was to consolidate a standing army in the centre and established a department of army called as Diwan-i-Arz. Balban was convinced that the glory of kingship was possible only by following the Persian tradition which he very carefully followed in his personal and public life. Balban laid great stress on Genealogy, claiming descent from the mythical Turkish hero, Afrasiyab. The Balban theory of kingship coupled with his policy of blood and iron paid him good dividends. He enhanced the prestige of sultanate of Delhi.

**Administration**

The expansion of the Delhi sultanate led to the emergence of a powerful and efficient administration system. The sultan was the head of the administration and an independent sovereign of a certain territory. There were many officials to look after the royal household. The wazir, as the head of the diwan-i wizarat, was the most important figure in the central administration.

The wizarat organised the collection of revenue, exercised control over expenditure, kept accounts, disbursed salaries and allotted revenue assignments (iqra) at Sultan’s order. 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.

**Art and Architecture**

The Mamluk dynasty built multiple majestic monuments and buildings during their regime. Some of the important building which were built by Mamluk or Slave dynasty includes:

- The qutb complex,
- Qutb Minar,
- Tomb of Ilutmish,
- Tomb of Balban,
- Quwwat ul-Islam mosque,
- Tomb of Nasir-ud-din Mahmud,
- Adhai Din ka Jhonpara etc.

**Importance of Dynasty**

The sultans of the Mamluk dynasty had the greatest contribution in the field of architecture. An Indo-Islamic style of architecture developed through a harmonious blend of Indian and Islamic traditions. Politically, the Slave Dynasty laid the foundation on which subsequent dynasties like the Khaljis and the Tughlaqs established a mighty empire.

**7.3 Khaljis (1290-1320 AD)**

**Introduction**

The slave sultans were succeeded by a new dynasty of kings called the Khaljis in 1290 AD. Their rebellion was welcomed by the non-Turkish sections in the nobles. The Khalji dynasty was named after a village
in Afghanistan but they were actually Turkish in origin. The Kings of Khalji Dynasty were known for their faithlessness and ferocity.

**Jalal-ud-din Khalji (1290-96 AD)**

Jalal-ud-din Khalji was the founder of Khalji dynasty. He was seventy years of age when he ascended the throne. He was the first ruler of the Delhi Sultanate who believed that the state should be based on the willing support of the governed, and that since the vast majority of Indians were Hindus, India could not be a truly Islamic state. Jalaluddin tried to win the goodwill of the nobility by a policy of tolerance. Although Jalaluddin retained the earlier nobility in his administration, but the rise of Khaljis to power ended the monopoly of nobility of slaves to high offices.

Jalaluddin was a pious Muslim and desired to consider himself as Mujahid fi Sabillillah (fighter in the path of god). He constructed his capital at Kilokhri, from where he ruled for nearly six years. Though he faced several attacks from the Mongols, his brave front and smart negotiations led to the defeat of the Mongols. He avoided harsh punishments, even to those who revolted against him. He not only forgave them but at times even rewarded them to win their support. However, people considered him to be a weak sultan. The most significant event of Jalaluddin Khalji reign was the invasion of Devagiri by his son in law Alauddin Khalji who was also his nephew. Ala-ud-din Khalji successfully invaded Devagiri and accumulated surplus wealth. He killed Jalal-ud-din Khalji and ascended the throne.

**Alauddin Khalji (1296-1316 AD)**

*Introduction*

Alauddin Khalji was second and most powerful ruler of the Khalji dynasty. He wanted to become a second Alexander and conquer the world. Alauddin had two victorious expeditions during the reign of Jalaluddin. The successful expedition proved that Alauddin was an able military commander and efficient organiser. In July 1296 AD, he murdered his uncle and father-in-law Jalaluddin Khalji and crowned himself as the Sultan. Alauddin decided to revive Balban’s policies of autocratic governance. He also faced, a few rebellions in succession during the early years of his rule. As per Barani, the author of Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, Alauddin felt that there were four reasons for these rebellions:

- The inefficiency of the spy system,
- The general practice of the use of wine,
- Social intercourse among the nobles and inter-marriage between them and
- The excess of wealth in the possession of certain nobles.

**Sultanate’s Expansion**

- Alauddin Khalji adopted the policy of blood and iron and conquered many new territories during his tenure. He conquered Malwa, Devagiri, Warangal, Chittoor, Ranthambhor, Madurai and Gujarat.
- In Gujarat, he secured the services of enuch slave Malik Kafur who became general of the Alauddin Khalji’s army.
- Alauddin Khalji launched two expeditions between AD 1302 and 1303, the first was against Warangal followed by Chittoor.
- Alauddin Khalji also won Siwana, the most important stronghold of Marwar and Jalor.
- Alauddin Khalji went to southern India and drained the wealth of Madurai and Rameshwaram. He was the first ruler from North India who extended his kingdom to south of Narmada river.
Administrative System
- Alauddin Khalji led the foundation of an efficient system of government. He firmly believed in non-interference of anyone in the affair of state matters. Even Ulemas (a body of Muslim scholars who are recognized for having specialist knowledge of Islamic sacred law and theology) were not allowed to interfere.
- Alauddin Khalji introduced many reforms to make his empire strong and powerful. He issued orders that the nobles should not have social gatherings or inter-marriages without prior permission.

Market Reforms of Khalji Dynasty
- Alauddin Khalji appointed special revenue officer for collections. The revenue was based on the measurement of land.
- Alauddin Khalji initiated various market reforms and established various markets in Delhi. These markets were the grain market (Mandi), the cloth market (Sarai Adil), the market for sugar, dried fruits and butter and the market for horses, slaves and cattles. Each market was under the officer called as Shahnna-i-mandi who was assisted by an intelligence officer.
- Alauddin Khalji used to receive daily reports of market from two independent sources, the Munhiyans (secret spies) and the Barid (intelligence officer).
- Alauddin Khalji was very strict with the rules and regulations of market and the violations were served with harsh punishments.

Military Reforms
- Alauddin Khalji organised very efficient spy system.
- Alauddin Khalji was the first among the Delhi Sultanate to lay the foundation of standing army which was based on Turkish model to protect country from Mongol invasions.
- Alauddin Khalji introduced the system of branding of horses and also maintained a list of soldiers.
- Alauddin Khalji organised various workshop and factories were set up for the manufacture of weapons and other war material. The soldiers were equipped with horse and arms.
- Alauddin Khalji repaired the fort constructed by Balban in Northwest frontiers and also constructed new forts, which were garrisoned and arrangement were made for regular supply of arms, food and fodder.

Revenue Reforms
- Alauddin Khalji himself administered the price of every commodity and ensured that there was a sustainable balance between demand and supply.
- Alauddin Khalji followed strict rules so that farmers could not hoard grains or sell them privately. Price of commodities were maintained at nominal rate which could be afforded by all the people.
- Alauddin Khalji ordered for whole land measurement and then fixed the share to the state.

Art and Architecture
The Khalji dynasty marked a new phase of history in medieval architecture. Most of the monuments during Khalji dynasty were built on Arabic style of architecture. Ala-ud-din constructed huge minar near Qutab minar but this ambition was incomplete due to his death. Alai-Darwaza was another one of the noted construction of Islamic architecture. It was built with red stone and white surface over entire surface. Alai-Darwaza also contained calligraphic inscription and decorative patterns. Ala-ud-din built the famous Hauz Khas near siri village. The significant and famous mosque Jaimat Khana was built within the enclosure of Nizam-ud-Din Aulia’s shrine.
Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq is also known for the famous Tughlaqabad fort in Delhi. He improved the means of communication, transport and the postal system during his reign. He is known for subjugating Warangal and Bengal. Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq died in an accident after which his son Muhammad bin Tughlaq was ascended to the throne.

Muhammad Bin Tughlaq (1325-51 AD)

After the death of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq in 1325 AD, his son Muhammad bin Tughlaq or Jauna Khan came to power. He was one of the most controversial ruler of the Delhi Sultanate. He introduced many ambitious schemes and experiments but most of them proved to be a failure. He was a learned scholar of Arabic and Persian and possessed tolerance in religious affair.

Reforms

- **Transfer of Capital:** Muhammad bin Tughlaq shifted his capital from Delhi to Deogir in the Deccan and renamed it as Daulatabad. Many nobles, religious men and craftsmen shifted to the new capital. Muhammad bin Tughlaq built a road from Delhi to Deogir and also setup rest houses for the people. Many people died because of rigorous travelling and heat. This caused great hardship and heavy financial loss to the people. Within five months, the whole scheme was given up as the capital was shifted back to Delhi.

- **Introduction of Token Currency:** Muhammad bin Tughlaq introduced Bronze coins or Jital of the same value as Silver coins (Tanka) to overcome the shortage of silver in India. He ordered that Bronze coins to be accepted as equivalent to the Tanka. According to Barani, the King was forced to introduce the token currency as the government’s treasury was empty due to Sultan’s policy of conquests and boundless generosity. Muhammad bin Tughlaq did not keep a check or reserve the right to issue new coins for state and people began to mint token currency in their houses. The large scale of duplicate and forged coin came into market circulation. Consequently, the value of Bronze

7.4 Tughlaqs (1320-1412 AD)

**Introduction**

The Tughlaq dynasty was founded by Ghazi Malik who ascended the throne as Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq in 1320 AD and this dynasty ruled till AD 1412. Ghiyas-ud-din rose to an important position in the reign of Ala-ud-din Khalji. However, after a brief rule Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq died in AD 1325 and his son Muhammad Tughlaq was ascended to the throne. Under the Tughlaqs, the Delhi Sultanate was further consolidated.

Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq (1320-25 AD)

Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq or Ghazi Malik was the founder of Tughlaq dynasty. He was a good administrator and an efficient ruler. Though he was a devout Muslim, he never persecuted the Hindus.
coins decline sharply and were rejected by the people which further resulted in loss of trade. The forged minting caused tremendous loss to the royal treasury. The bronze coinage remained in circulation for three years from AD 1329-1332. The government was finally forced to recall the bronze Jittal coins and issue gold and silver coins or Tanka for exchange.

- **Increase of taxes in Ganga Yamuna Doab:** Muhammad bin Tughlaq increased the land taxes in the Ganga and Doab region to meet the expenses of his army. Many farmers revolted against Muhammad bin Tughlaq as they were not able to pay the increased revenue due to famine in the region. Finally, Muhammad bin Tughlaq nullified his order.

- **Khurasan expedition:** The Khurasan expedition was the controversial project of Muhammad bin Tughlaq which he undertook in 1330-31 AD. The exact geographical location of the expedition was unclear. However, Barani believed it was in Iraq. Muhammad bin Tughlaq raised huge army for the expedition in the region of Khurasan. It is said that the Khurasan expedition was abandoned as the friendly ties were established between Muhammad bin Tughlaq and Tarmashirin.

According to Barani, a part of Khurasan army was sent to Qarachil. The project began in 1337-39 AD. The region of Qarachil lies in mid of Himalayas in Kangra district. According to Ibn Battuta, the expedition of Qarachil was mainly done to prevent Chinese encroachment in Rajput regions. This expedition proved to another major failure of Muhammad bin Tughlaq which lead to immeasurable loss in resources and lead to discontent among the people and Sultanate army.

- **Agriculture Reform:** Muhammad bin Tughlaq established the all new Department of Agriculture known as ‘Diwan-i-Kohi’. He appointed the minister of Agriculture called Amir-i-kohi, to look after the entire range of issues related to the agriculture sector. Muhammad bin Tughlaq ordered to provide agricultural loan ‘Takavi’ to farmer. Peasants were provided with financial support to help in arranging seeds for cultivation. The main objective of the Agriculture department was to increase the cultivation of land and enhance the productivity of farm produce.

**Feroz Shah Tughlaq (1351-88 AD)**

After the demise of Muhammad bin Tughlaq, his cousin Feroz Shah Tughlaq became the next sultan of Tughlaq dynasty. Feroz Shah Tughlaq had the support of the nobles and the theologians. He was a kind man who did not favour harsh punishments. He cancelled the loans of peasants which had been advanced by his predecessor.

- Feroz Shah Tughlaq established Diwan-i-Khairat (charity department) and Diwan-i-Bandagan (department of slaves) and also made Iqta system hereditary. He developed royal factories called Karkhanas in which thousand of slaves were employed.

- His reign is also known for plenty of public works. Feroz Shah Tughlaq constructed canals for irrigation and established four new towns – Jaunpur, Hisar, Fatehabad and Firozabad. About three hundred new towns in different locations were built during his reign. He did close to 845 public works during his regime.

- He was gentle towards peasantry. He destroyed all public records of farmer debts to give clean chit to farmers.

- Feroz Shah Tughlaq showed intolerance towards Hindu and further imposed the Jizya tax on the Brahmins. During his reign many Hindu temple and idols were destroyed.

- Feroz Shah Tughlaq established free hospital called as ‘Dar-ul-Shafa’ for the poor.

- He moved one of the Ashokan pillars from its original place and erected it in Delhi.

Feroz Shah Tughlaq was the last great ruler of Delhi Sultanate. His policy of intolerance against Hindu made him less popular and unfavourable to the Hindu community.

**Tughlaq Administration**

The administration of Tughlaq was more of sustainable in nature. The method of administration vary from ruler to ruler. The reign of Feroz Shah Tughlaq is considered to be a notable one. He followed the advice of ulemas for the proper functioning of administration. The nobles were assured hereditary succession of their property. The famous Iqta system was redefined and made hereditary.
The special taxes on more than twenty eight articles were abolished as they violated the Islamic law.

**Tughlaq Art and Architecture**

The Tughlaq dynasty made a major contribution in the field of art and architecture. The period marked as domination and rediscovery of Islamic architectures. Various experts and masters were called upon to build a new empire which was full of creativity in the Indo-Islamic style.

The Indo-Islamic style of architecture was the amalgamation of Islamic as well as Hindu style of architecture. The architecture of Tughlaq dynasty flourished in the reign of all three rulers of the dynasty. Each ruler added their architectural creativity during their regime. Feroz Shah Tughlaq was great patron of Islamic architecture. He built the famous Feroz Shah Kotla which is also called as the fifth city of Delhi. The tenure of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq saw the construction of the famous Tughlaqabad city based on Romans fashions. The tomb of Ghiyas-ud-din was constructed as artificial lake, which was connected with a citadel by an eminent path. The another famous ruler of Tughlaq dynasty was Muhammed bin Tughlaq who contributed by building the Jaha-pana by linking first and second city by wall.

**Alai-Darwaza**

**Khirki Masjid**

About 300 new towns were built during Feroz Shah’s reign. The most famous among them was Firozabad near Red Fort in Delhi, now called Feroz Shah Kotla.

Top two storeys of the Qutb Minar were repaired by Feroz Shah Tughlaq.

**Tomb of Ghiyas-ud-Din**

**Qutb Minar**
7.5 Sayyid Dynasty (1414-51 AD)

Introduction

After the end of Tughlaq dynasty, the Sayyid Dynasty rose to power with four rulers ruling from 1414 to 1451. Timur, after defeating the army of Delhi, appointed Khizr khan as the governor of Multan. According to Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi, the founder of Sayyid Dynasty was the descendent of Prophet Mohammad. The Sayyid dynasty had the a shortest tenure among all the dynasties of Delhi Sultanate.

Khizr Khan (1414-21 AD)

Khizr khan was the founder of Sayyid dynasty. He was considered to be ablest ruler and joint forces with Timur. Khizr Khan defeated Sultan Daulat Khan, occupied Delhi and founded the Sayyid dynasty. He did not assume the title of Sultan but was comfortable with Rayat-i-Ala.

The authority of power under Khizr khan did not extend beyond Punjab and Doab. After Khizr Khan’s death Mubarak Shah and Muhammad Shah ascended to the throne one after another. All of these rulers tried to control rebellious regions like Katihar, Badaun, Etawah, Patiali, Gwalior, Kampil, Nagraur and Mewat but they failed due to the conspiracy of the nobles. Alam Shah, the last ruler of the dynasty, proved to be incompetent and surrendered his throne to Bahulul Lodi who was the governor of Sind and Lahore during that period.

7.6 Lodi Dynasty (1451-1526 AD)

Introduction

The Lodis were the last rulers of the Delhi Sultanate and the first to be headed by the Afghans. The Lodi kingdom was larger than that of Sayyids. They formed a large group of army in the sultanate. The Lodi’s dominated the region of Punjab and the upper Ganga valley. The Lodis were known for Behluli coins which continued till Akbar’s tenure. Apart from this, the standard of measurement known as gaj-i-sikandari remained in force till Mughals. The three main ruler of Lodi dynasty includes:

- Bahlul Lodi
- Sikandar Lodi
- Ibrahim Lodi

Importance of Dynasty

Tughlaq were the third among the five dynasties of Delhi sultanate that ruled India. They were considered to be one of the strongest dynasties of Delhi sultanate. The Tughlaqs ruled India for approximately a century. The entire era of Tughlaq’s rule witnessed growth and prosperity. The Tughlaqs were responsible for consolidation of the entire kingdom and the protection of it from any foreign invasion.

On the other hand, the Tughlaqs also faced major economic downfall brought due to counterfeiting for token current introduced the Monarch. The Tughlaq were also known for the integration or union of North and South in terms of exchange of idea and culture. The Tughlaq dynasty in its capacity was recognized as last of the mighty dynasties of entire sultanate of Delhi.

The political control of Delhi gradually weakened during the rule of Firoz’s successors. The invasion of Timur in 1398 AD left the sultanate desolate. By the end of Tughlaq rule (1412 AD), the Sultanate was confined to a small territory in north India. A number of regions proclaimed independent status during this time.
Bahlul Lodi (1451-89 AD)

Bahlul Lodi was the founder of the Lodi dynasty in 1451 AD. He ruled Delhi sultanate till AD 1489. He was a great soldier and a capable General. He maintained good relations with the nobles. The major achievement of Bahlul Lodi reign was the eventual annexation of the Jaunpur kingdom. Bahlul Lodi extended his territories over Gwalior, Jaunpur and upper Uttar Pradesh. He also annexed entire Sharqi kingdom and was known to issue the Bahluli coins. After the death of Bahlul Lodi, Sikandar Lodi ascended to the throne.

Sikandar Lodi (1489-1517 AD)

After the death of Bahlul Lodi, Sikandar Lodi ascended the throne. He was second ruler of the Lodi dynasty and ruled from 1489 AD to 1517 AD. Sikandar Lodi’s real name was Nizam Shah and was also called as ‘Sultan Sikandar Shah’. He was considered to be a good administrator who laid roads and encouraged irrigation facilities. During his reign price of commodities were very cheap.

Sikandar Lodi considered the position of the Sultan as superior to the nobles. He compelled nobles and amirs to show formal respect to the Sultan in darbar and outside and treated them harshly. He re-annexed Bihar, Dholpur, Narwar and some parts of Gwalior and Nagor to the Delhi Sultanate.

He also introduced ‘Gaj-i-sikandari’ for measurement of land and abolished octroi duty on grain. Sikandar Lodi controlled the Ganga valley as far as western Bengal and moved his capital from Delhi to new town which later became famous as the city of Agra. He was indulged in destruction of temples. He showed little tolerance towards Non-Muslims and re-imposed Jizya on them. He was succeeded by his son Ibrahim Lodi in 1517 AD.

Ibrahim Lodi (1517-26 AD)

Ibrahim Lodi was the last ruler of Lodi dynasty who succeeded his father, Sikandar Lodi in 1517 AD. His tenure was dominated by several revolts by his officers and nobles. After his own brother Jalal Khan rebelled against him, Ibrahim Lodi got Jalal Khan murdered.

The governor of Bihar declared his independence. The governor of Punjab, Daulat khan invited Babur the ruler of Kabul to invade India. Babur accepted the proposal and marched towards Delhi. Ibrahim Lodi was defeated by Babur in the battle of Panipat in 1526. With his death, the Lodi kingdom came to end and the establishment of new dynasty better known as Mughal Empire began by Babur.

Thus, the Sultanate of Delhi, which originated on the battlefield of Tarain in AD 1192, breathed its last in 1526, a few miles away on the battlefield of Panipat.

Administration

- The administration of Lodi dynasty was headed by Wazir who was also called as Chief Minister. The office of Wazir was responsible for the collection of revenue, maintenance of account and the regulation of expenditure. The office of Wazir was also known as Diwan-i-Wizarat. The wazir was assisted by the mushrif-i-mamalik (accountant) who maintained a record of the accounts and the mustauf-i-mamalik (auditor) who audited this account.
- During the Lodi dynasty, the provinces were divided into Shiqs under the administration of Shiqdars. The provinces were further divided into Parganas (group of hundred village), headed by Chaudhary. Among all units, village was the smallest unit of administration.
- Diwan-i-arz (military department) was another significant department of Lodi dynasty which was headed by Ariz-i-Mamalik who was responsible for the inspection, recruitment and payment of troops.
- Lodi dynasty managed the royal correspondence headed by Dabir-i-insha under the office of Diwan-i-insha.
Literature
The rulers of Lodi dynasty gave pivotal importance to the Literature. Literature was produced not only in Persian and Sanskrit but also in other religious languages. The rulers of sultanate provided shelter to different scholars who produced historical and religious literature. The books were written in the form of prose, drama and poetry.

Art and Architecture
- The design of arch and the dome was the special feature of Lodi dynasty which became predominant in the North India.
- The decorations were done by using geometrical and floral designs with verses from Quran. The Lodi dynasty constructed several monuments dedicated to their dead leaders. The Lodi dynasty period was also known as the period of Macabre.
- A large number of tomb and parks were constructed around capital. The tomb of Sikandar Lodi was constructed within the Lodhi garden. Other famous architecture of Lodi dynasty include Bade Khan ka Gumbad, Chhote Khan ka Gumbad, Bada Gumbad, the tomb of Shihab-ud-din Taj Khan, poli ka Gumbad.
- The tomb of Lalitpur popularly known as Jama Masjid was one of the iconic Islamic architecture of the Lodi dynasty.

7.7 Delhi Sultanate: Challenges
The Sultanate of Delhi which ruled India for more than three hundred years were succeeded by Mughal Empire who established their strong hold over India. The sultanate of Delhi went through many successes and failures but finally survived as a political force.

Inner Conflict among Nobility
The Sultanate of Delhi was ruled by five dynasties who ruled for about three hundred years. The constant struggle between Sultan and Nobility was the main factor for change of dynasties and deposing of rulers. Ilutmish emerged victorious in war of succession after the death of Qutbuddin Aibak. Ilutmish created a group of loyal nobles called as Turkan-i-Chihalgani (The forty).

After the death of Qutbuddin Aibak, the throne was ascended to Nasir-ud-din Mahmud. Another most powerful ruler, Balban was considered as de-facto Sultan. He succeeded Nasir-ud-din Mahmud after his death. Since there was no fixed law to govern the
succession of ruler, so the nobles tried to either crown themselves or support their favourite heir. Finally, Afghans replaced the Turks with the accession of Bahlul Lodi.

**Attack by the Mongols and Others**

The Mongol invasion possessed a serious threat to the Delhi sultanate. Mongols formed a huge nomadic empire under Genghis Khan in 12th century. Balban and Alauddin Khalji confronted them with full military might. During Khalji regime, Mongols led by Qutlugh Khwaja even besieged Delhi which caused a huge damage.

Another important attack which shook the foundation of Delhi Sultanate was by Timur in AD 1398. Timur was the son of Chief of Chaghtai branch of Turks. Timur ordered general massacre and large number of Hindus and Muslims including children and women were murdered. The downfall of Delhi sultanate began after the invasion of Timur.

**Resistance by Indian Chiefs**

The Delhi sultanate was considerably weakened after the Khaljis and the Tughlaqs. The Delhi sultanate had to face the resistance from Indian chiefs at regular intervals. After the Khalji and Tughlaqs assumed power, the sultanate of Delhi was considerably weakened. The invasion of Babur in 1526 finally brought sultanate of Delhi to an end.

**Emergence of Provincial Kingdoms**

The reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq had started the process of disintegration of Delhi sultanate. Though Firuz Shah Tughlaq tried to control the situation but failed. During this period, some of the provincial rulers declared their independence from the rule of the Sultanate.

**Gujarat**

Due to its geographical location, prosperity and fertility, Gujarat was one of preferred area for the invaders. The first Sultan who annexed Gujarat to the sultanate of Delhi was Alauddin Khalji. Gujarat mainly witnessed the dominance of Turkish rulers. Zafar khan was the governor of the province.

He threw off the allegiance to Delhi Sultanate and became an independent ruler of Gujarat. The most famous of the Gujarat rulers was Ahmad Shah (1411–41 AD). To extend his kingdom, he restrained the Rajput States. Ahmad Shah founded the city of Ahmedabad. After his death, his eldest son Muhammad Shah succeeded him. In AD 1572, Akbar conquered and annexed it to the Mughal empire.

**Bengal**

Bengal being the easternmost province of Delhi sultanate faced multiple problems of communication and transportation. Balban forced Bengal to accept the sovereignty of Delhi. He appointed his son Bughra khan as governor of Bengal. After the death of Balban, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq tried to solve the problem of Bengal by dividing it into three independent administrative division: Sonargaon, Satgaon and Lakhnauti. During the reign of Alauddin Hussain Shah, Bengal became rich and prosperous. After the death of Alauddin Husain, his son Nasib Khan rose to power. Finally, in 1538 AD, Sher Shah Suri defeated Ghiyasuddin Mahmud Shah and made Bengal a part of his empire.

**Jaunpur**

Jaunpur was the prosperous province of eastern part of Delhi sultanate. The Governor of Jaunpur was Malik Sarwar. After his death, his son Malik Karanphul ascended the throne. He was also known as Mubarak Shah and was first ruler of Sharqi dynasty. He undertook the expedition of jaunpur but was unsuccessful.

After Mubarak Shah’s death in 1402 AD, his brother Ibrahim succeeded him and ruled for thirty four years. Under the leadership of Ibrahim, Jaunpur became an important centre of learning. He is also known for Sharqi style of architecture. The Atala Masjid of Jaunpur was built during his rule.

**Kashmir**

Ascending the thrown as sultan Shams-ud-din in 1339, Shah Mir the swat job-seeker, found the first Kashmiri Sultanate. After his death, a powerful and
despotic ruler Sikandar succeeded him. Sikandar died in 1416 and his son Ali Shah ascended the throne. After some years his brother Shah Khan ascended the throne under the title of Zainul Abidin. Abidin abolished jizya and prohibited cow slaughter. He paid greater attention to the economic growth of Kashmir. Zainul Abidin’s successors were weak. Taking advantage of their weaknesses, Mirza Haider, a relative of Babur conquered Kashmir. In 1586 AD, Kashmir was annexed by Akbar and became part of the Mughal Empire.

Malwa
Malwa was the south-western province of Delhi sultanate. Malwa was conquered by Sultan Alauddin in 1310 AD and was part of Delhi sultanate until the death of Firoz Tughlaq. After the death of Dilwar Khan, the dynasty was succeeded by his son, Ala Khan, also called as Hoshang Shah. He made Mandu his capital. Some of famous architecture of Mandu are Jama Masjid, Jahaz Mahal and Hindola Mahal. Under Mahmud Khan, Malwa became strong and prosperous kingdom. Finally, the predominance of Rajputs at the court created Jealousy among the Muslim nobles. Later on, The Sultan of Gujarat defeated Malwa and annexed Malwa to Gujarat.

### Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526 AD): Important Facts

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### Art and Architecture Under Delhi Sultanate

**New Features**
- Dome
- Lofty towers
- True arch unsupported by beam
- Vault.
- They also brought with them an expert knowledge of the use of concrete and mortar, which had hitherto been little used in India.

**Examples**
- The Adhai-din ka Jhonpra at Ajmer has a beautiful prayer hall, an exquisitely carved Mehrab of white marble and a decorative arch screen.
- The first example of true or voussoired arch is said to be the tomb of Ghiyasuddin Balban in Mehrauli (Delhi).
- In the Khilji period the usage of voussoired arch and dome was established. Famous examples are the tomb of Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia at Delhi.
- The Tughlaq buildings show stark simplicity and sobriety, probably indicating less financial resources as well as puritanical tests. Sloping walls and a dark appearance characterise the buildings. Some notable Tughlaq monuments were the fort of Tughlaqabad, the tomb of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq which marked a new phase in Indo-Islamic architecture by serving as a model for later tombs and the fort of Adilabad.
- The Sayyid period was too short to allow construction of elaborate buildings.
- The construction of double domes was the main feature of Lodhi Architecture. One building worth noting is the Moth ki Masjid erected by the prime minister of Sikandar Lodhi.
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