

## TURKISH INVADERS IN INDIA

Shahbuddin Mohammed Ghauri; also known as Muhammed bin Sam or Muizzuddin was ruler of Afghanistan for period 1173-1206.

- His first attack on India was on Multan in 1175 which he conquered.
- His first attack on a Hindu Ruler in India was on Gujarat. (Battle of Anhilwara- 1178) Ghauri lost this battle against the Solanki ruler Bhim II. (One of several Chalukya Dynasties)
- He again attacked in 1191 but Prithviraj Chauhan defeated him because Ghauri underestimated Chauhan
- In 1192 he again attacked but this time he was better prepared and defeated Prithviraj in second battle of Tarain
- He came again in 1194 and fought battle of Chandwar against Raja Jai Chandra, ruler of Kannauj of Gharwal dynasty
- His last attack was in 1206 against Jats. He was killed while going back to Afghanistan by some of his rival sects
- Md Ghauri had no sons and he didn't nominate any particular one as his successor.
- His death resulted in a scramble for supremacy among his three important generals – Qutbuddin Aibak (a viceroy of Md Ghauri and commander of his army in India), Tajuddin Yalduz (ruled Karman and Sankaran between Afghanistan and Sind), and Nasiruddin Qubacha (held Uchh).
- The assumption of sovereign powers by Qutubuddin Aibak in 1206 is regarded as the foundation of the Sultanate of Delhi and the first ruling dynasty of the sultanate.

Ikhtiyar Uddin **Muhammed Khalji** came from Turkey and attacked Bihar. He destroyed Nalanda and Vikramshila monasteries. He also attacked Bengal, which was ruled by Lakshman Sen of Sena dynasty, and defeated him.

He ruled till 1206. Bengal was eventually annexed as a part of Delhi Sultanate by Iltutmish in the year 1218

## DELHI SULTANATE

Five dynasties ruled during this period

Dynasty and period	Founder
1. the Ilbari 1206-90	Qutub-ud-din Aibak (Turkish descent)
2. the Khalji 1290-1320	Jalaluddin Khalji (Turkish descent)
3. the Tughlaq 1320-1413	Ghiyas-ud-din Tuglaq (Turkish descent)
4. the Saiyid 1414-51	Khizr Khan (Descent disputed)
5. the Lodis 1451-1526.	Bahlul Lodi (Afghan)

### **Mamluks: Ilbari Turks, ruled between 1206-1290**

- Mamluk stands for slaves who were bought for the army. They were not ordinary/domestic slaves.
- Ilbari: Name of Turkish Tribe (Qutub-ud-Din was only King who was not from Ilbari tribe; all remaining kings were from this tribe. Infact only three kings of this dynasty were slaves.

### **Qutb-ud-Aibak ruled only for 4 years from Lahore (1206-10).**

- He expanded empire from Sindh to Bengal and Himalayas to Vindhya
- He gave sound administrative set up & followed modified Turkish administration
- He was famous for his generosity and earned the sobriquet of lakh-baksh (giver of lakhs)
- One of few kings who died accidentally, fell from horse while playing Polo (Chaugan)

- (Ghiyas-ud-din Tuqlaq, Sher Shah Suri and Akbar all died accidentally)
- Contributions in Architecture:-
  - He constructed **Quwwat-ul-Islam**, earliest mosque in India, at Mehrauli
  - This mosque was earlier a Vishnu temple and a Jain temple before that. Generally symbols were destroyed by the new rulers to establish and prove superiority of culture, religion and dynasty.
  - Adhai-din-ka-Jhompra at Ajmer ( It is a mosque, but named such by Marathas)
  - Laid foundation of Qutub Minar (victory tower) 52.5 m

### Qutub Minar

- Qutab Minar is the tallest minaret in India and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- It is named after Sufi Saint Qutb-ud-Din Bakhtiyar Kaki
- It was completed by Iltutmish, who constructed 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floor.
- Over the period of history it has been repaired by Firoz Shah Tughlaq, Sikander Lodi and Major Smith

### Iltutmish (1210-36):

- After Qutub-ud-Din Aibak's death governor of Badayun, Iltutmish annexed throne in 1210
- Shamsuddin Iltutmish was the real founder of the Delhi Sultanate.
- He shifted capital from Lahore to Mehrauli (Delhi)
- It was he who gave the country a capital, a sovereign state, a monarchical form of government and a governing class or nobility, known as Turkan-i-chahalgani or Chalisa (a group of 40).
- Contributions:-
  - Iltutmish constructed 2nd, 3rd and 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Qutub Minar.
  - Built Hauz e Shamsi water tank, Gandhak ki Baoli step well in Delhi
  - He issued coins; Tanka in Silver, Jital in copper 1 tanka: 48 Jital. Coins were in Arabic script
  - Coins issued by Ghauri and Aibak were in Devanagiri script. In some of coins carried images of Ghauri along with images of Hindu goddess Lakshmi
- King was known as Sultan (term used in Turkish subordinate to Caliph) but Sultans were actually sovereign
- Iltutmish brought a certificate from caliph of Baghdad which recognized him as the king to please Muslim theologians and adopted title of Nasir amir ul muminin (Deputy of Caliph) but actually there was no direct control of Caliph.
- Kings from Balban onwards started claiming that they had divine powers, also known as "Divine Theory of Kingship"
- They called themselves as Naib-e-Khudai, i.e. Deputy of God and Zille Illahi meaning Shadow of God.
- The basic aim was strengthen power, prestige to avoid treachery from contemporaries as well as relatives, infact slaves were trusted more than relatives
- Iltutmish had maintained a corpus of 40 slaves who were known **Turkan-i-Chahalgani** holding important departments. Interestingly one of them was Balban who killed Iltutmish and also all other members of Chahalgani
- He introduced concept of **Sajda** (prostration before a person. In Islam this respect is reserved only for god, not even for prophet, or parents of a person) It obviously was a violation of Islamic tenets.
- Another tradition was "**Paibos**" i.e. to kiss the feet of the Sultan.
- The aim was psychological dominance. Balban introduced these because five sultans before his reign had been killed at hands of relatives because of conspiracy and treachery.
- Sultan held many important positions
  - He was Commander in Chief of army and was present in most important battles

- He was also chief of civil administration as well Supreme Justice.
- Normally a court of law would try out the criminals
- Though his position was hereditary, in Islamic law there was no clear cut instruction on succession.
- It was meant to be passed to most able person, which often led to conflict when there were many powerful successors.

### UMRA & ULEMA

- One important group which emerged during Delhi Sultanate was Umra.
- **Umra** was a group of influential nobles. When the king was weak, he became a puppet of Umra.
- **Ulema** (holy men) had support of public, the king feared a public backlash if he defied ULEMA
- Umra and Ulema were very powerful and there was constant struggle of power and clash of interests with the Sultan
- Muslim ruler invented new concept that during **Khutba** (religious sermon recited on Fridays) the name of Sultan should be recited along with Prophet.
- Whenever a new Sultan came, he sent an order to all mosques in his kingdom to include his name in Khutba
- The purpose was to maintain power and glorify him among common people.
- The king was assisted by a set of ministers who took care of different departments
  - Close group advising King known as **Majlis-e-Khalwat**
  - One of important officer in Majlis was **Wazir** who had basic role of PM, after the king he held the most powerful position..
  - Second important officer was **Diwan-i-Ala** or finance minister (developed further under Mughal times)
  - **Mir Bakshi or Mir-e-Arz**, was incharge of army but not Commander in Chief, he was incharge of recruitment, salary
  - **Amir-i-Insha** was incharge of correspondence which in medieval times was important position. He had to maintain diplomatic relations with external empires as well as correspondence with various province heads
  - **Qazi-ul-Quazat**: He was the chief Justice of the kingdom, he also sometimes took charge of Sadrus-Sudur incharge of grants for the mosques, students etc. Scholarship was called Wazifa
  - **Amir-i-Hajib**: Basically maintained protocol, and agenda of king in terms of meeting officials and common people.
  - **Amir-i-Shikar**: Incharge of royal hunting, to keep army fit and active
  - **Amir-i-Akhur**: Incharge of royal stable, though it was not a powerful position but very influential position because of proximity to the king.

### Three Sultans contributed to the additions in the portfolios of officers

- **Alau-ud-Din Khalji**  
Introduced two new departments
  - Diwan-i- Mustakharaj: - was incharge of collecting revenue
  - Diwan-i-Riyasat: - was looking into the market control policies
- **Muhammed Bin Tughlaq**
  - Diwan-i-Kohi or Amir-i-Kohi: Role was to improve agricultural lands and facilities as there was a famine during this period..
- **Feroz Shah Tughlaq**:
  - He was known as a welfare king as he had introduced many public welfare reforms
  - He introduced the following new officers:-
    - Dawa-i-Khairat: For charitable purposes

- Diwan I Risalat: Believed to be used for religious purposes
  - Diwan I Imarat: For architectural purposes
  - All of the above were highest ranking officials
- Revenue management
- Most important was Kharaj – Land revenue (Bhag)
  - Others were Zakat, Jazia, Khams or Mal-e-Ghanimat
- There were two methods of collecting Kharaj:
- State would demand a fixed share based on total produce of the peasant
  - In this case assessing state official estimated the maximum possible total produce and fixed the tax beforehand
  - Even if the actual produce is less of more than the predicted production, the state would collect its fixed share irrespective of crop.
  - The Kharaj could be collected both in cash and kind.
  - In case of cash the market price played important role.
  - Cash price could be determined by market price or price decided by state
  - In fact there was no uniformity all over the empire.
  - Cash was needed and Sultans preferred to collect Kharaj in cash as it was easy for state to collect.
  - Collecting grains entailed procuring, weighing, transporting and storing.
  - The collection of revenue by cash had a very positive impact on the society.
  - The peasants were forced to sell as they had to pay land revenue
  - The places where they sold was called Kasbah
  - These Kasbahs developed into towns and cities in the future
  - Collection of revenue in cash was one of the main reason for urban revolution in 13th and 14th century
- Other taxes
- **ZAKAT**  
It was collected only from Muslims at rate of 2.5% of total wealth. It was collected from only those Muslims who had savings of more than 7.5 tolas of gold or its equivalent based on lunar calendar. It was compulsory from both men and women
  - **JAZIYA**  
Jaziya originated in Arab world ever since the early days of Islam. In that period and region, there were generally only Muslims and Christians. Non-Muslim (called Zimmis or Dhimmis) had apprehension in joining army, so they paid additional tax in lieu of protection. There are evidences that if they joined army Jazia was refunded to them.
    - Technically it was wrong to impose Jazia in india, as there were large number of Hindu soldiers. So it was against tenets and spirit of Islam.
    - Institution of Islam was being used by Muslim Kings for their political and personal gains.
- The problem arose during the reign of Feroz Shah Tughlaq when he separated Jaziya from Kharaj
- In earlier kingdoms, since Jaziya was collected along with Kharaj, it was a small amount compared to total amount.
  - Once it was separated, peasants resented additional tax.
  - Jaziya was also getting collected from Brahmins, which caused huge controversy as throughout history Brahmins never paid taxes and were considered a privileged sect.
  - The right to collect Jaziya was given to the Ullemans but they started maligning the Brahmins which led to strikes in Delhi.

Akbar stopped collecting Jaziya during 1564 but it was re-imposed by Aurangzeb again.

○ **KHAMS**

It was also known as Mal-e-Ghanimat, it related to war booty

According to Islam out of the total war booty, four-fifth would go to the soldiers and one-fifth to the state.

Sultan Alla-ud-din Khalji reversed the collection i.e.  $4/5^{\text{th}}$  to state and  $1/5^{\text{th}}$  to soldiers.

- Most important source of revenue was Kharaj
- Ala-ud-din Khalji collected 50% of income as Kharaj.
- There were no revenue records before the time of Ala-ud-Din Khalji. After him revenue records were maintained very strictly. Mushrif-e-Mamalik were auditors

**Provincial and Local Administration**

- Ilutmish gave a structure to entire administration in his vast territory, before him due to feudalism prevalent in India, kings were very weak.
- Ilutmish brought major changes in provincial and local administration
  - He divided his empire into various Iqtas – Territories
  - Iqta was divided into Shiqq, Shiqq into Pargana under which villages would lie
  - Iqta was similar to modern day state, it was called Suba by Mughals and Province in days of the British
  - Iqta-dar was incharge of territory
- There were 3 types of Iqta-dars; **Wali, Mukta and Iqtadar.**
  - Wali was governor of bigger iqta and had 3 responsibilities; collection of revenue, law and order and maintenance of army on behalf of sultanate.
  - Muqtadar was similar to Wali, Iqtadar was responsible for first two functions but he did not maintain army. Majority of officers were Iqtadars. Wali and Muqtadar were senior positions and fewer in numbers.
  - There were two major differences in administration in Rajput period and Delhi Sultanate;
  - The positions of Wali, Muktdar and Iqtadar were not hereditary. They were regularly transferred, removed or changed, so that could not establish local rapport or followings. Rajput officials were almost permanent in nature.
- Each iqta was sub-divided into Shiq. At this level there were two kind of officials having equal rank but different job profiles
  - Shiqdar I Shiqdaran Incharge of law and order
  - Munsif I Munsifan Revenue and Civil Justice
- Below Shiq was Pargana, here the official were
  - Shiqdar; Incharge of law and order
  - Munsif ;Incharge of revenue
- All the Shiqdars were headed by Shiqdar-i-Shiqdaran
  - Delhi sultanate did not change the rural administrative structure in India. The British were the first ones to change the rural structure
  - Muslim rulers made agreements with the village chiefs for the collection of revenue
- The village chiefs had different names; Khut or Zamindar, Mokaddam or village headman and Chaudhari who was head of 100 villages.
- These people were not officials and were not paid salary but received commission in return for services provided for revenue collections.

**ARMY ADMINISTRATION**

- Alau-ud-Din Khalji was the first to maintain a regular army.
- Initially there was no regular army; recruitment was done during war and for period of war. Soldiers were peasants only, who came back to agriculture after the war.
- But there are evidences that it used to exist even during the period of Balban and Iltutmish as they had maintained a separate department for army i.e. Mir-e-Arz
  - Alau-ud-din is believed to have maintained a large of army of around 3 lac soldiers
  - He paid salary to soldiers in cash. Each soldier was paid 312 tanka for if he maintained two horses, and 243 tankas if he if he was maintaining one horse
  - Hierarchy of army from top to bottom was; Khan, Malik, Amir, Sipah-e-salar, Sirkhail
  - Alau-ud-Din introduced Dagh (Horses were branded with royal seal to check corruption) and Chehra (depiction of facial details of soldier along with identification marks) to avoid impostors
- Soldiers were mainly Hindus
- Officials were Muslims who spoke Turkish, Persian or Arabic
- Braj and Khadi were local dialects which became polished when they came in contact with above mentioned languages. This led to development of Urdu
  - Urdu means Camp also Lashkar or Battalion of Army
  - Urdu was language of Hindu soldiers
  - It originated in and around Delhi
  - First poet of Urdu was Amir Khusro
  - He created a new style of Persian called sabaq-i-hindi or the Indian style. His important literary writings are mutla-ul-anwar, shirin khusrau, laila majnun, ayina-i-sikandari and hasht-bihisht.

**RAZIYA SULTAN**

After the death of Iltutmish in 1236, his son, Ruknuddin Feroz Shah became the ruler with help of Umara but he was not a capable ruler

So his sister Raziya got help from people of Delhi and some of the Umara and became the ruler.

- She became the first woman ruler of India
- Contemporary writer Minhau us Siraj wrote about Sultan in his book Tabaqat-i-Nasiri
- He described Raziya as beautiful, intelligent and courageous woman who had all the qualities to become a successful ruler, but was born with a wrong sex.
- Umara thought they could use Raziya to govern the Sultanate
- But they were shocked when Raziya arrived wearing the attire of her father, Qula and Kuba and started dictating her own terms
- Even Raziya's mother and own brothers were against her
- Jamalludin Yaqut an Abyssinian slave was given the post of Amir-i-Akhtur by Raziya. There were rumours that they had an affair but there was no authentic proof of this fact.
- Raziya actually married Altunia, who was the Governor of Bathinda.
- Raziya was followed by Bahram Shah (1240 C.E. – 1242 C.E.) his rule witnessed the first sack and plunder of Lahore by Mongols, he also created the post of Naib-e-Mamlakat (the regent) for the first time, who was the de-facto ruler and sultan was the de-jure ruler. Later Bahram Shah was put to death by the Chalgani nobles.