

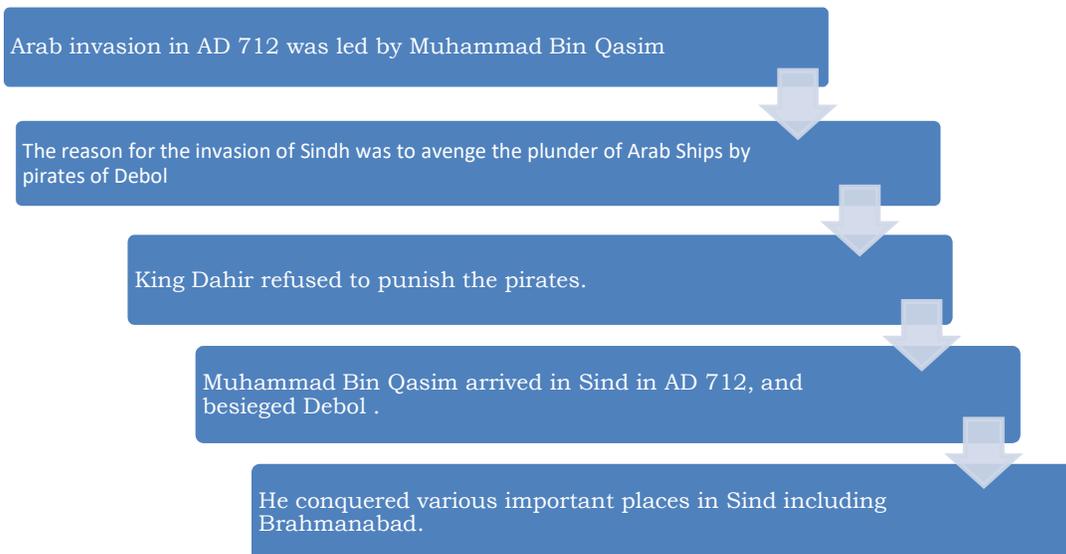
## Lesson 9

### ESTABLISHMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE DELHI SULTANATE

#### Summary

The rulers who ruled substantial parts of the North India between AD1200 to AD1526 were termed as Sultans and the period of their rule was known as the Delhi Sultanate. These were the Mamluks who were popularly known as the slave dynasty, the Khaljis, the Tughlaqs, the Sayyids) and the Lodis. In this lesson we will give you a detailed account of the process of conquest, expansion and consolidation of Delhi Sultanate in India.

#### ARAB INVASION OF INDIA



#### Rise and Spread of Islam

- In the 7th Century AD, a new religion named "ISLAM" was born in Arabia
- Islam was founded and preached by Prophet Muhammad (AD 570–632).
- Islam laid emphasis upon belief in one God and its holy book as the "QURAN".
- Every Muslim was asked to pray five times a day, to fast during the month of Ramzan, to distribute alms and to make a pilgrimage, if possible, to Mecca.
- Between AD 632–661 there were four pious Caliphs

#### Mahmud Ghazni

- Mahmud Ghazni invaded India 17 times during AD 1000–1026.
- Mahmud Ghazni first encountered the Hindushai ruler, Jaipal in AD 1001
- Between AD 1014–1019, Mahmud enriched his treasury by looting the temples of Nagarkot, Thanesar, Mathura and Kanauj.
- In AD 1025, Mahmud embarked on the most ambitious Indian campaign, the attack on the Somnath temple in Saurashtra

## The First Battle of Tarain (AD 1191)



- The conflict started with claims of Bhatinda.
- Muhammad Ghori's army was routed and he narrowly escaped death.
- Prithviraj conquered Bhatinda

### The Second Battle of Tarain (AD 1192)

- This battle is regarded as one of the turning points in Indian History.
- The Turkish cavalry was using two superior techniques.
- The first was the horse shoe and the second was, the use of iron stirrup.
- A large number of Indian soldiers were killed.
- Prithviraj tried to escape but was captured near Sarsuti.
- The Turkish army captured the fortresses of Hansi, Sarsuti and Samana
- After Tarain, Muhammad Ghori returned to Ghazni, leaving the affairs

### Iltutmish (AD 1210–1236)

- Iltutmish defeated Yalduz in AD 1215 in the battle of Tarain.
- In AD 1217 he drove away Qabacha from Punjab.
- He also organised his trusted nobles or officers into a group of “Forty” (*Turkan-i-Chahalgani*).
- Iltutmish made a significant contribution in giving shape to administrative institution such as *iqtas*, *army* and *currency* system.
- He gave the Sultanate two of its basic coins– the silver ‘*Tanka*’ and the copper ‘**Jittal**’.

of India in the hand of his trusted slave general Qutbuddin Aibak.

- Muhammad Ghori gave a crushing defeat to Jai Chand at Chandwar near Kanauj.
- Battle of Tarain and Chandwar laid the foundations of Turkish rule in Northern India

### Mamluk Sultans or the slave dynasty (AD 1206 to 1290)

- Qutbuddin Aibak (AD 1206–1210)
- Iltutmish (AD 1210–1236)
- Raziya (AD 1236–40)
- Nasiruddin Mahmud (1246–66 AD)
- Balban (AD 1266–87)

### Raziya (AD 1236–40)

- After the death of Iltutmish his son Ruknuddin Firoz ascended the throne with the help of army leaders.
- But with the support of the people of Delhi and some military leaders, Raziya soon ascended the throne.
- Nobility accused her of violating feminine modesty and being too friendly to an Abyssinian noble, Yaqut.
- She got killed after she was defeated by the nobles.

### Nasiruddin Mahmud (1246–66 AD)

- After Raziya's death, the power of *Chahalgani* increased
- Behram Shah (AD 1240–42) and Masud Shah (AD 1242–46) were

made Sultans and removed in succession

- After them, in AD 1246, Ulugh Khan known as Balban placed the inexperienced and young Nasiruddin on throne and himself assumed the position of Naib (deputy).
- According to Ibn Battuta and Isami, Balban poisoned his master Nasiruddin and ascended the throne

### **Balban (AD 1266–87)**

- Balban ruled in an autocratic manner and worked hard to elevate the position of the Sultan.
- He formulated the theory of kingship.

### **Expansion of Delhi Sultanate**

- Alauddin first began his territorial conquest with a campaign against Gujarat.
- After the annexation of Gujarat, Alauddin turned his attention towards Rajasthan. Ranthambore was the first target
- In AD 1303, Alauddin besieged Chittor, another powerful state of Rajputana.
- By AD 1311, Alauddin had completed the conquest of large parts of Rajputana and became the master of North India.

### **Deccan and South India**

- After AD 1309 Malik Kafur was dispatched to launch campaign in South India.
- The first expedition was against Pratab Rudradeva of Warangal in the Telengana area.

- He also insisted on the ceremony of *sijada*(prostration) and *paibos* (kissing of the monarch's feet) in the court
- He also organised a strong centralized army, both to deal with internal disturbances
- Balban re-organised the military department (*diwan-i-arz*) and deployed army in different parts of the country to put down rebellion
- Balban was determined to break the power of the Chahalgani
- Balban was undoubtedly one of the main architects of the Sultanate of Delhi

- The second campaign was against Dwar Samudra and Ma'bar (modern Karnataka and Tamil Nadu).
- Alauddin's forces under Malik Kafur continued to maintain a control over the Deccan kingdoms

### **Market Regulations of AlauddinKhalji**

- To control the prices, Alauddin set up three different markets for different commodities in Delhi.
- These markets were the grain market (*Mandi*), cloth market (*Sarai Adl*) and the market for horses, slaves, cattles, etc.

### **THE TUGHLAQ (AD 1320–1412)**

- The founder of the Tughlaq dynasty was Ghazi Malik who ascended the throne as Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq in AD 1320 and this dynasty ruled till AD 1412.

### **The Deccan and South**

- Muhammad Tughlaq while a prince led the early expeditions against Rai Rudra Dev
- Warangal was annexed under direct control of the Sultanate.
- In contrast to Allauddin Khalji's policy the Tughlaqs annexed the Deccan region.
- Muhammad Tughlaq even decided to transfer his capital from Delhi to Deogir and renamed it as Daultabad.

### **East India**

- Bhanudeva II, the ruler of Jajnagar in Orissa had helped Rai Rudra Dev of Warangal in his battle against Delhi Sultans.
- Ulug Khan led an army against him in AD 1324 Bhanudeva II was defeated and his territory annexed.
- In Bengal there was discontent of nobles against their Sultan
- Bengal was defeated and a noble Nasiruddin was installed on the throne.

### **North West**

- The Mongol invasions from the North-West region were rocking the Sultanate on regular intervals
- The region from Lahore to Kalanur including Peshawar was conquered and new administrative control was established.

### **Transfer of Capital**

- One of the controversial measures of Muhammad bin Tughlaq was that he transferred his capital from Delhi to Deogir (Daultabad).

- In view of different versions, it is difficult to assign one definite reason for this shift.

### **Token Currency**

- Muhammad introduced a copper coin (*Jittal*) in place of silver coin (tanka) and ordered that it should be accepted as equivalent to the tanka
- The State did not take proper precautions to check the imitation of coins issued by the mints.
- Common man failed to distinguish between copper coin issued by the royal treasury and those which were locally made.
- Sultan was forced to withdraw the token currency.

### **Diwan-i-Kohi**

- Muhammad Tughlaq started a new department for the development of Agriculture.
- Peasants were given financial support to help in arranging seeds for cultivation.
- This loan was also given in case of crop failures

### **SAYYID DYNASTY (1414–1450 AD)**

- Khizr Khan defeated Sultan Daulat Khan and occupied Delhi and founded Sayyid dynasty.
- After Khizr Khan's death Mubarak Shah (AD 1412–34) and Muhammad Shah (AD 1434–45) ascended the throne
- In 1445 AD, Alam Shah ascended the throne and became the Sultan.
- Alam Shah's Wazir Hamid Khan invited Bhalol Lodi to take charge of the army and after realizing that it would be difficult to continue

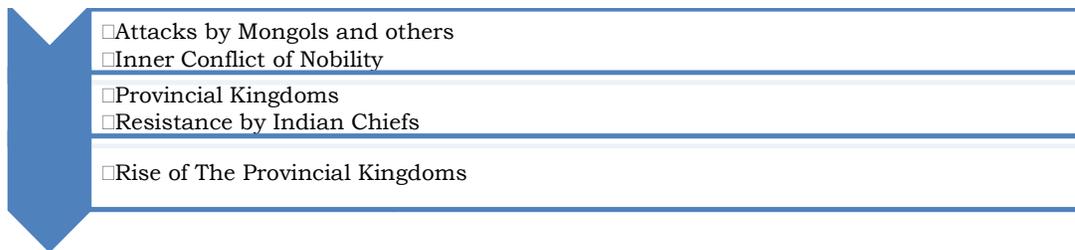
as Sultan, Alam Shah left for Badaun.

### **RECONSOLIDATION UNDER LODI DYNASTY (1451–1526)**

- Bahlol Lodi successfully suppressed the revolts in Mewat and Doab
- After the death of Bahlol Lodi, Sikandar Lodi (AD 1489–1517) ascended the throne.

- Sikandar Lodi re-imposed *jaziya* on non-muslims.
- After the death of Sikandar Lodi in AD 1517 his nobles helped Ibrahim Lodi to become Sultan
- His reign proved a period of revolts
- The rebellions Daulat Khan sent an invitation to Babur at Kabul to invade India. Babur defeated Sultan Ibrahim Lodi in AD 1526 in the battle at Panipat.

### **CHALLENGES FACED BY THE SULTANATE**



### **Evaluate yourself**

- Q. Examine the market control policy of Alauddin Khalji.
- Q. Mention the challenges faced by the Sultans in consolidating their rule.
- Q. Examine the causes of the decline of the Sultanate