

Ancient and Medieval History Class 09

30th January, 2024 at 9:00 AM

DELHI SULTANATE (1206-1526) (09:17 AM):

- **Slave Dynasty (1206-1290):**
- **Qutub-uddin-Aibak (1206-1210):**
- He was the founder of the slave dynasty in India with capital at Lahore.
- He tried to expand the Delhi sultanate in the North and North-West parts of the Indian subcontinent.
- He was a great scholar of Islamic traditions and known for his generous charity because of which he was given the title of "**Lakh Baksha**".
- Unfortunately in 1210, his death happened when he fell from his horse while playing the game of chaugan (Horse Polo).
- **Ilutmish (1211-36):**
- Ilutmish belonged to the Ilbari tribe of Turkey.
- Many a time, slave rulers in India were also referred to as Mamluk which indicates their Turkish origin.
- While ascending the throne, Ilutmish had to face a challenge from the other slaves of Aibak that is Yalduz Qubacha.
- Qubacha captured the area of Multan, Uch, and Sindh.
- In 1221, he defeated Qubacha and annexed these areas into the Delhi Sultanate.
- Ilutmish is regarded as the real founder of the Delhi Sultanate.
- **He took the following initiatives:**
- a) Transferred the capital of the sultanate from Lahore to Delhi.
- b) He released the official currency of the sultanate which is **silver tanka** and **copper gittal**.
- He created a group of 40 people known as **Turkan-i-Chahalgani** or Chalisa.
- He also initiated the **Iqta system** which was basically the revenue administration of Delhi sultanate.
- Under this system, the land was divided into two categories that are Khalisa land and Iqta land.
- **Khalisa** was royal land and revenue generated from this land was entirely submitted to the sultan.
- **Iqta land:**
- It was granted to mainly military officers of the Delhi sultanate who were known as Iqta holders or Iqtadas.
- The revenue collected from this land was meant for maintaining the army and also meeting the personal expenses of the officers.
- The surplus amount was to be submitted to the royal treasury.
- Before his death, he overlooked the claims of all his sons and appointed his daughter Raziyah as the next sultan.
- But after the death of Ilutmish, one of his sons Rukhuddin was appointed to the court for a few months.

- **Raziyah Sultan (1236-40):**
- She was a bold and courageous ruler.
- She discarded the attire of women and dressed up like a sultan.
- She was also progressive in her initiatives.
- She appointed a person from Abyssinia Yakut to a high official position.
- It was not liked by the group of 40 nobles who started to conspire against her.
- In one such incident, the Governor of Punjab Altunia arrested Raziyah.
- But, Raziyah solved the problem by marrying Altunia.
- After this incident, the 40 noble group was highly disaffected and hatched the plan to kill Raziyah.
- In 1240, she was killed by a dacoit at a place called Kaithal.
- After the death of Raziyah, in quick succession, **three rulers** were appointed that is:
 - i) Bahram Shah (1240-42).
 - ii) Mashud Shah (1242-46).
 - iii) Naseeruddin Mohd Shah (1246-65):
- He created the position of "**Naib-i-Mamalkat**" which means deputy sultan.
- One of the occupants of this position was Ghiyas-uddin-Balban who later became the most powerful slave dynasty sultan.
- **Ghiyas-uddin-Balban (1265-86) (10:00 AM):**
- He was the most powerful sultan of the slave dynasty.
- He introduced the theory of divine kingship.
- As per this theory, he proclaimed the sultan as the shadow of god (Zill-e-ilahi) on Earth.
- He also claimed his lineage from the mythical Iranian hero Afrashiyab.
- He introduced many Iranian etiquettes in the Delhi sultanate court that is:
 - **Sijda** - It is the prostration of the head before the sultan.
 - **Paibos** - Kissing the feet of the sultan.
- He also introduced the Iranian New Year festival **Nawroz**.
- He abolished the group of Turan-i-Chahalgani and established a centralized department of the military known as "**Diwan-i-Ariz**".
- To tackle the problem of Mewatis, he cleared all the dense forests in and around Delhi.
- **Note:**
- During the tenure of Iltutmish, Jalaluddin Mangarbarani sought asylum in the Delhi Sultanate to save himself from the Mongols.
- But Iltutmish refused to give him asylum to avoid any confrontation with the Mongols.
- During the tenure of Balban, one of the sons of Chengis Khagan/Genghis Khan attacked the Delhi sultanate which led to the fight on the banks of the Indus River.
- At this time, the Mongol branch was defeated by Balban's general Jalaluddin Khilji.
- Khilji also persuaded Mongols to accept Islam as such many of them became the part of Delhi Sultanate army and accepted Islam.

- **Khilji Dynasty (1290-1320) (10:24 AM):**
- Jalaluddin Khilji removed the last slave ruler and founded the Khilji dynasty in the Delhi sultanate.
- They were also called **Seljuks**.
- He was assassinated by his nephew and son-in-law Allauddin Khilji in 1296 as Awadh.
- **Allauddin Khilji (1296-1316):**
- Before coming to power, Allauddin invaded Devagiri and looted a good amount of gold.
- After coming to power, one of his first campaigns was in Gujarat.
- From Gujarat, he purchased a very capable transgender in 1000 Dinars.
- Later, he was appointed one of the most trusted generals of Allauddin with the title Malik Kafur.
- To chase the Mongols who defected from Alluaddin's army, he attacked Ranthambore Fort ruled by Raja Hamir Deva.
- Ranthambore was regarded as one of the strongest forts in the world.
- Allauddin laid a three-month seizure of the fort.
- One fine night through a secret tunnel, Allauddin's army entered the fort.
- They selectively started killing the men of the fort.
- At this time doubtful of Allauddin's intention, the women of the fort decided to perform en-mass Jauhar.
- Court poet Allauddin Amir Khusrau hailed this act of Jauhar as a brave act on the part of women to safeguard their dignity.
- Similarly, Raja Hamir Deva also took his life to safeguard his dignity.
- After the Ranthambore episode, Allauddin marched to Chittorgarh which led to the killing of Raja Kunwar Singh of Chittorgarh.
- It is also believed that the queen of Kunwar Singh, Rani Padmavati also performed Jauhar at this time.
- After this incident, the campaigns of Allauddin in South India were led by his general Malik Kafur.
- Malik Kafur invaded Devagiri of Yadava, Warangal of Kakatiyas, Dwarasamudra of Hoysala, and Maabar of Pandya.
- In 1316, the death of Allauddin happened after which Mubarak Shah was appointed ruler, and after the death of Mubarak Shah, Khusrau Khan.
- **Note:**
- Amir Khusrau was originally in the court of Blaban.
- He was often referred to as a parrot of India.
- Later, during the tenure of Allauddin Khilji, he became the disciple of Sufi saint Nizamuddin Auliya of Delhi.

- **Initiatives of Allauddin Khilji (11:30 AM):**
- a) He divided markets into three categories:
 - i) For food grains, vegetables, and fruits.
 - ii) Clothing and footwear.
 - iii) Animal and slave trade.
- To look after the affairs of three types of mandi, an officer was appointed known as "Sahna-i-Mandi".
- b) He centrally fixed the prices of essential commodities.
- It provided relief not only to his soldiers but also to the public.
- c) To reduce corruption, he standardized all the weights and measures.
- He also stopped hoarding of the foodgrains.
- d) He used the services of the Banjara community to trade with far-flung areas.
- e) He started the system of branding the horses known as "**Dagh Syatem**".
- f) To stop the spy activity in his army, he initiated the "**Huliya or Chehra**" system whereby the biometric details of soldiers were written in the register.
- g) He started the system of measuring land before imposing taxes.
- h) At the end time of his tenure, land taxes were fixed at 40% of the produce.
- **Tughlaq Dynasty (1320-1414) (11:46 AM):**
- Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq removed the last Khilji ruler Khusrau Khan and founded the Tughlaq dynasty.
- It is said that he didn't share good relations with the famous Sufi saint of Delhi Nizamuddin Auliya.
- In fact, he also threatened the saint to leave Delhi.
- At this time, Auliya made a prediction "**Delhi Dur Haste**" (Delhi will always be far away from you).
- Later, his prediction proved to be true.
- Ghiyasuddin laid a campaign to Bengal from where he received a huge number of elephants as war price.
- Meanwhile, one of his sons Jauna Khan created a very large wooden platform just before Delhi to welcome the winning army.
- Once the elephants mounted on this wooden platform, it collapsed which led to the death of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq and his elder son.
- As such, it led to the elevation of Jauna Khan as the next sultan with the title "Mohd Bin Tughlaq".

THE TOPIC FOR THE NEXT CLASS - TUGHLAQ DYNASTY (TO BE CONTINUED.....).