

Delhi Sultanate

The Slave Dynasty (1206-90 AD):

Qutub-ud-din Aibak (1206-10):

- With the assassination of Mohammad Ghori at Dhamiak (currently a village in the Punjab province of Pakistan) on the banks of river Jhelum in 1206, Aibak became the Sultan of India and laid the foundation of Mamluk or Slave dynasty.
- He assumed the title of 'Malik' and made Lahore his capital.

Aibak's Administration:

- His administration was purely military due to scarcity of time to develop a sound system. The local administration was left in the hands of native officers who followed the traditional revenue model.
- The Muslim officers were made in charge of administration of capital and provincial towns.
- In 1210, he fell down from a horse while playing chaugan (Horse Polo) and died instantly.
- He was buried in Lahore.

Art and Culture:

- Aibak is accredited with the construction of Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque (Delhi) and Adhai Din ka Jhopra (Ajmer) and Qutub Minar (completed by Iltutmish).
- He was known as 'Lakh Baksh' or 'Giver of Lakhs' because of his generosity.
- He was also a patron of literature.
 1. 'Adab-al-harb- etiquettes of war' was written by Fakhr-i-Mudabbir dedicated his book of genealogies to Aibak.
 2. The composition of Hasan Nizami's 'Taj-ul-Maasir' is a work primarily dealing with Aibak.

Itutmish (1211-36 AD):

- Shams-ud-din Itutmish was one of the most powerful Sultan and was the real founder of the Slave dynasty.
- He was the third of the Mamluk kings as he deposed Aram Shah, the successor of Aibak and ruled the former Ghurid territories in northern India.

Challenges faced by Itutmish:

- He had to deal with a number of Turkish amirs in Delhi and its neighbourhood and also the supporters of Aram Shah.
- Itutmish also had to resist his powerful rivals like Tajuddin Yaldoz, ruler of Ghazni and Nasiruddin Qabacha, ruler of Multan and Sindh.
- Yaldoz wanted to exercise his authority over the Turkish domains of India while Qabacha aimed at setting up an independent principality in Punjab, thus advancing from Sindh towards Lahore.
- Many Hindu chiefs challenged the authority of the Sulatan. The subjugated Rajput chiefs also became rebellious. They recovered Jalore and Ranthambore from the control of Turks. Even the rulers of Ajmer, Gwalior and the Doab refused to acknowledge the authority of the Turks.
- Ali Mardan established his dominion over Bengal after killing Ikhtiyaruddin Khilji, a slave of Ghori and began to rule as a independent ruler.
- Personal difficulties: The Turks considered it humiliating to submit to the slave of the slave.
- Mongol Invasion: In 1221, a Mongol invasion evoked the Khwarizmi ruler, Jalal-ud-din Mingburnu to move to the Indus valley region to seek refuge under Itutmish. Itutmish largely remained away from this and refused to give shelter to Jala-ud-din until the departure of the Mongols and Jalal-ud-din, preventing the Mongol invasion.

Achievements of Iltutmish:

- In between 1226-34 AD, he conquered Ranthambore (1226), Mandawar (1227), Bayana, Jalore, Gwalior, Malwa, Bhilsa, Ujjain and Bengal (1231).
- In the 3rd Battle of Tarain, he defeated Yaldoz and in 1228, he carried a march against Qabacha terminating him in the end.
- Establishment of Delhi as capital- Iltutmish transferred his capital from Lahore to Delhi and tightened his control over the areas extending from Satluj to Benaras. Thereby consolidating his entire dynastic rule.
- Administration of justice: He made adequate provisions for dispensing justice and redressal of grievances. He appointed number of Qazis in Delhi to dispense justice.
- Iqtadari System:
 1. Iltutmish divided his sultanate into numerous big and small tracts of land called iqta.
 2. The iqta was a territory assigned to an officer called 'Muqti or Iqtedar'.
 3. The muqti had right to collect taxes especially land revenue and given grant of revenue from a territory in lieu of salary. The muqti thus acted as tax collector, army paymaster and also commander.
 4. The Iqta system connected the farthest part of the kingdom with the central government but it was not hereditary.
- New currency:
 1. Iltutmish was the first to introduced purely Arabic coinage system from Delhi.
 2. He issued coins of Silver called 'Tanka' and copper called 'Jital' to facilitate trade and commerce.
- Iltutmish became the first legal sovereign of the sultanate as he justified his claim to the throne of Delhi by securing a letter of investiture (Manshur) from the Abbasid Caliph of Baghdad. By securing Manshur, he put an end to all the revolts against him in India.
- Art and Culture:
 1. He completed Qutub Minar started by Qutub-ud-din Aibak.
 2. He gave liberal grants to the scholars and learned men and also opened a college in Delhi.

➤ Turkan-e-Chahalgani:

1. Iltutmish organized a band of loyalist officers named 'Turkan-e-Chahalgani' or 'Corps of Forty' and distributed all high offices among them in order to put his status and dignity beyond anybody's challenge.
2. The 'Corps of Forty' became a new order of nobility that enhanced the prestige of the Sultan. They became the basis of his power and glory.