


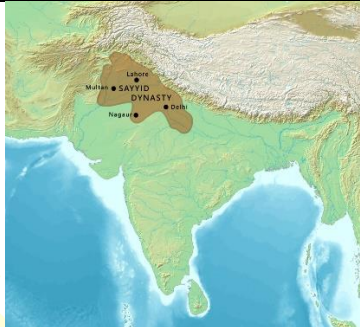
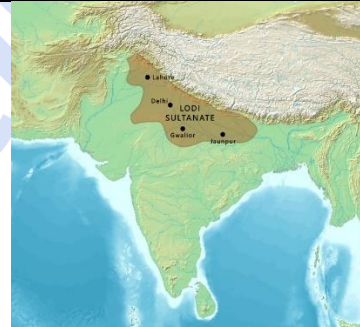


Prelims Master Program (2023-24) – Ancient, Medieval, Art and Culture
Handout 20: Delhi Sultanate Part 1

Dynasties: 5 dynasties, 320 years, 32 sultans

		
Mamluks 1206-1290 (Turks)	Khaljis 1290-1320 (Turks/Afghans)	Tughlaqs 1320-1414 (Turks)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qutubuddin Aibak • Iltutmish • Razia Sultana • Balban 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jalaluddin Khilji • Allauddin Khilji 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq • Muhammad bin Tughlaq • Firuz Shah Tughlaq
		
Sayyids 1414-1451 (Turks)	Lodhis 1451-1526 (Afghans)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bahlol Lodhi • Sikandar Lodhi • Ibrahim Lodhi 	

The Turks introduced **Islamic history writing tradition** to India.

- The history of the Delhi Sultanate has been chronologically recorded by numerous Arabic and Persian authors. Now, for the first time, a lot of textual sources of history becomes available.
- **Ghaznavid Era**
 - 'Shahnama' of Firdausi
 - 'Kitab ul Hind' of Al-Biruni
- **Mamluks**
 - Fakhr-e-Mudabbir was in the court of Aibak
 - Hasani Nizami wrote Tajul Masir in the court of Iltutmish.
 - '**Tabaqat-i-Nasiri**' of Minhaj us Siraj Juzjani (**Siraj**) covers the history of Islamic rule up to the reign of Naseeruddin Mahmud.
- **Tughlaqs**
 - 'Rahela' by a Moroccan traveller Ibn Batuta was an important Arabic travelogue. It gives important details about the reign of Mohammed bin Tughlaq.
 - Ziauddin **Barani** wrote
 - '**Tarikh-i-Firuzshahi**', a chronicle of Feroz Shah's Reign which contains important details about the policies of previous Sultans as well.
 - 'Fatwa-i-Jahandari', a work on statecraft written in the form of advice to the king, in which Barani introduces the concept of the 'Ideal Muslim King' and discusses his qualities. He further concludes that Feroz Shah Tughlaq had these qualities.
 - Shams-i-Siraj **Afif** continued the '**Tarikh-i-Firuzshahi**' after Barani's death. His work includes an account of Tumor's sack of Delhi.
- **Sayyids**
 - '**Tarikh-i-Mubarakshahi**' by Yahya bin Sirhindi covers the history of the Sayyid Dynasty.

Malfuzat: As a source of study of Delhi Sultanate

- Malfuzat or Malfuz was Sufi literature. It reflects the conversation of important Sufi saints, Pir, Seikh etc.
- The '**Fawad-ul-Fuwad**' composed by **Hasan Sijzi** focuses on the conversations and sermons of **Nizamuddin Auliya**
- '**Khair-ul- Majlis**' by **Hamid Qalander** covers the religious discourse of **Nasiruddin Chirag-i-Dehlavi**.

Mamluk/Ilbari Dynasty (1206-90)

Around **Muhammad Ghori** died by 1206. After that, there is a struggle between the Ghurid nobles and the slaves of Muhammad Ghori. Eventually **Turkic slaves** have an upper hand, and they successfully divide among themselves the whole realm of Ghori.

- **Aibak**: Indian territories with Lahore as centre
- **Qubacha**: Region of Sindh, Multan, Uchch (Bahawalpur region)
- **Yalduz**: Ghazni region, the core territory of the Ghurids
- **Bakhtiyar Khalji**: founded Khalji rule of Bengal (1203-1227)

Within these three powerful slaves, the struggle starts about who would control the whole territory.

(1) Qutubuddin Aibak (1206-10)

After the death of Mohammed Ghori, Aibak, his **governor at Lahore** claimed his Indian territories. He didn't establish the capital at Delhi, he continued from Lahore only. He didn't also get time to consolidate his rule and overcome his opposition. Before he could resolve the conflict against **Yalduz** and **Qubacha**, he died accidentally while playing **Chaugan** in 1210 and thus could not consolidate his power.

It is generally held that despite the title of Sultan and the *manumission* received from Ghori, Aibak is not regarded as a sovereign of Delhi Sultanate.

- No **coin** has yet been discovered bearing his name
- **Khutba** was not read in his name.
- **Ibn Battuta** does not consider him as the first independent sovereign of Delhi
- His name is not included in the **list** of Delhi sultans that **Firuz Shah Tughlaq** ordered to be inserted in the Friday Khutba.

Important details:

- He made **Lahore** as his capital.
- He was popularly known as '**Quran Khawan**' and '**Lakh Baksh**'.
- Architecture
 - **Quwwat-ul Islam Mosque** at Mehrauli, over the destroyed remains of a Vaishu and Jain Temples.
 - **Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra** Mosque at Ajmer over a Jain shrine, Saraswati temple and a Sanskrit college.
 - He started construction on the **Qutub Minar** and
 - Built as a victory tower symbolizing Turkish victory over India.
 - Dedicated to Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki (a Chishti Sufi saint).
 - Aibak was able to complete the first storey only. The second, third and fourth stories were built by Iltutmish.
 - It was repaired by Feroz Shah Tughlaq after being destroyed by lightning and a fifth story was added.

Qutbuddin as the first ruler of the Slave dynasty. Following his demise, his son **Aram Shah** took over for a brief period but being addicted to a life of ease and luxury, he proved to be

an incapable ruler and was deposed. Turkish chiefs then chose Shamsuddin Altamash [also Iltutmish], a talented slave of Aibak, to take over the reins of the Sultanate.

(2) Iltutmish (1211-36)

He captured the throne after Aibak and from here the Delhi sultanate really starts. He is considered to be the **real founder** of the Delhi Sultanate. He not only defeated the other Slaves of Ghori, but also provided a solid administrative, military, economic and cultural foundation to the Empire in its infancy and protected it from external challenges also.

We can evaluate the achievements of Iltutmish in context of the problems which Iltutmish had to face in his career.

Challenge	Response
Yalduz (Ghazni) and Qubacha continued to threaten Delhi's independence.	He eliminated Yalduz and Qubacha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Battle of Tarain (1216): Yalduz is defeated by Khwarizmi Shah and thus he came to India. In the Tarain, Yalduz was defeated. • Qubacha was defeated much later, after Mongol threat subsided in 1228. This led to the conquest of Sindh.
Almost all the Rajput states rebelled successfully during the weak rule of Aram Shah. They threw away the yoke of Turkish power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He shifted his capital to Delhi from Lahore. • He quickly subjugated the Rajputs again. These included: Kannauj, Katihar, Badaun, Banaras, Ranthambore (1226), Jalore.
The governor of Bengal , Iwaz Khalji had declared his freedom and became the independent ruler in the name of Giyasuddin Iwaz Shah.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1227, Iwaz was killed in battle by an army led by Iltutmish's son Nasiruddin Mahmud and thus the Khalji rule in Bengal came to an end.
Newly founded Delhi Sultanate still lacked legitimacy and acceptance from the caliph.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was the first Sultan to receive the Mansur (letter of investiture from the Caliph). After this, he adopted the title 'Amin-ul Mominun Khalifa' (deputy of the leader of the faithful).
The threat of the Mongol invasion was looming large over the newly founded Delhi Sultanate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With his astute diplomacy, Iltutmish was able to prevent a Mongol invasion of India under Genghiz Khan.

The Sultanate lacked the support of an efficient **administrative structure**. Iltutmish took following steps in this regard:

- **Military foundation**
 - First Sultan to have a permanent royal bodyguard called the **Sar-i-Jahandar**, the precursor to a standing army.
 - He also introduced the permanent cavalry called the **Hashm-i Qalb**.

- **Central Administration**
 - Selected some important slaves of Muhamad Ghori and formed '**Turkan-e-Chihalgani**'.
 - It consisted mostly **Turkish ethnicity** but some **Tajiks** to counter-balance.
 - All the **important posts** were given to the members of the Chahalgani.
- Introduced the **Iqta system**.
 - It was a system of paying the officials in the form of land revenue assignments.
 - **Wilayat**: Divided a large area from **Multan to Lakhnauti** into administrative iqtas and allocated them to the nobles (called **Muqti/Wali**)
 - Similarly, he gave small villages in the **Ganga Yamuna Doab** area to about 2000 **Shamsi chiefs** in return for military service rendered to the state. Thus, he also organised the military system.
- He was the first Sultan to introduce standard Arabic **currency**: Silver Tanka, Copper Jital

Emergence of Delhi - During his reign, Delhi became the **cultural centre of the Islamic world**.

- **Massive migration of Muslims** due to Mongol menace. It led to a **great migration**. Large number of Muslim military personnel, scholars, artists, architects, engineers and craftsmen migrated to Delhi as the last refuge of Islam.
 - It provided support to the Iltutmish in terms of **military and administrative skills** to establish the Delhi sultanate on surer footings.
 - **Persians people** came into India in large number. With this, the tension between **Ahl-e-Saif and Ahl-e-Qalam** started. However, **Shia-Sunni** difference was not prominent in this era in India.
 - It also led to the **rise of Persian language** as the court language.
 - Large number of **Sufi sheikhs** also came into India.
 - Sultans also got their blessings and received legitimacy. Their shrines became centres of mystical Islam and sometimes centres of conversion to Islam also.
- He built two colleges at Delhi - Nasiria, Muzia
- He constructed **Hauz-i-Shamsi**.
- Thus, Delhi witnessed unprecedented cultural progress and became famous as '**Hazrat-i-Delhi**'.

Judgement

- He didn't create a strong base of administration. The 'Turkan-e- Chahalgani' was just an ad-hoc arrangement. His successors had to pay a heavy price for this.
- Furthermore, from the very beginning itself Iltutmish seems to have encouraged the ambition of Muslim nobility through linking them to landed property.
- However, in spite of the limitations mentioned above we can't diminish the achievements of Iltutmish in the history of the Delhi Sultanate. In fact, he was the real founder of this state.

(3) Razia Sultan (1236-1240)

- The only capable son of Iltutmish, **Mohammad** had already died during his lifetime. The rest of his sons were incapable.
- Iltutmish tried to break precedence by nominating **Razia** as his successor, but the members of 'Turkan-e-Chahalgani' selected an incompetent prince **Rukn-din-Firuz**. The anarchy continued.
- Taking advantage of this anarchy, Razia seized power with the support of the people and a section of the army. In 1236 AD, she declared herself the sultan of Delhi.

Challenges before Razia Sultan

She had to face several challenges.

- The **Chihalgani** felt **threatened** by her **popularity** and **independence**.
- **Orthodox Muslims** and ulemas considered it against their dignity to be ruled by a woman.
- Taking advantage of the chaos during Razia's revolt, some **nobles** laid **siege to the capital**.
- Some **Rajput states** rebelled again.

Razia's Response

- She **lifted the siege by the nobles** without bloodshed by sowing the seeds of mistrust and mutual suspicion among them.
- Razia sent Hasan Ghori to **suppress** the rebellious **Rajputs**. He was able to do so successfully.

Razia's Reforms

- Razia proved to be an **excellent administrator** and quickly brought the anarchy in Delhi under control. Law and Order was restored, and corruption was curtailed.
 - Minhaj-us-Siraj writes that all the nobles and Maliks from Deval to Lakhnauti bowed before Razia.
- She started **promoting non-Turks** to break the monopoly of Turkish nobles.
 - An Abyssinian noble **Yakut**, earlier a simple Amir-i-Akhur (Lord of the stables), was made Amir-ul-Umra (Chief of the Nobles).
 - Similarly, **Hasan Ghori** was made chief commander.

Downfall

- The jealous Turkish nobility and Ulemas tried to **tarnish her image** by spreading the rumor of an **illicit relationship between Razia and Yakut**.
- Then a **series of revolts** were orchestrated. The nobles at Delhi entered into a secret arrangement with the nobles at the provinces.
- As Razia enjoyed the support of the people of Delhi, the nobles compelled her to fight them **outside the capital**. Ultimately, she was defeated.

Reasons for her Downfall

- Many historians try to emphasise that Razia's biggest weakness was her gender.
 - *Minhaj-us-Siraj writes that Razia had all the qualities of an efficient ruler; She had only one weakness and that was her womanhood.*
- However, this is an over-simplistic explanation of her downfall. The **real reason** behind the Shamsi **nobility's opposition** to Razia was her independence and ability.

(4) Ghiyasuddin Balban (1266-86)

Humble beginning

- Balban began his career as a mamluk **foot soldier** in Ghorī's army under Iltutmish.
- He displayed a natural spark for leadership and rose quickly through the ranks.
 - During the Shamsi period (Iltutmish's reign), he was a leading **member of the Chihalgani**.
 - Later serving as **Naib/Wazir** (prime minister) during the reign of his son/grandson **Nasiruddin Mahmud** (r. 1246-66).
 - Since the king was weak and irresolute, Balban emerged as the **de facto ruler**.
- After serving as Wazir for almost 20 years, it is believed that he had the Sultan poisoned to death and took up the mantle of kingship himself.

Challenges before Balban:

A proper evaluation of the achievements of Balban can be done in context of problems that Balban had to face. During the time of his coronation Balban had to face a number of problems:

- **Within Sultanate:** Post-Iltutmish's reign, the crown's **power and prestige had deteriorated considerably**.
 - The **Shamsi nobility** had emerged as **kingmakers**.
 - This resulted in **frequent revolts and rebellions**. Eg. **Tughril Khan**, the governor of Bengal had rebelled and declared independence.
- **Inside India: Rajput Rebellions and Meo Issue.**
 - The breakdown of political machinery was reflected in the **deteriorating law and order** situation. Here, robbery became commonplace and fear of the law had virtually evaporated.
 - Many **Rajput states** of the **Gangetic valley** were also in open rebellion.
- **External Threats:** The problem of continuous **Mongol invasions** on the NW border of India.
 - The army was in shambles. As a result, the empire's frontiers were poorly defended.
 - The Mongols repeatedly raided Lahore and Multan and reached the outskirts of Delhi on several occasions.

In order to prevent the empire's disintegration, Balban realised that the **crown's prestige** and respect for authority must be restored. He thus propounded his own theory of Kingship.

Theory of Kingship

- **Objective:** He propounded a new theory of kingship in order to tackle the problem of the Turkan-i-Chahalgani, legitimize his accession/rule and ensure dynastic succession, thus giving stability to sultanate, and protecting it from invasions.
- Balban claimed that kingship had a **semi-divine origin**.
 - According to him, the office of the Sultan was '**Niyabat-i-Khudai**' (gift of God). Thus, he took the title '**Zilullah**' (shadow of God).
- He assumed all the **cosmetic features of Persian royalty**:

- In order to inspire high respect for the Crown, Balban also adopted Persian court rituals such as the 'Sijda' and 'Paibos'.
- Celebration of **Navroz**.
- **Personal courtly appearance**
 - To portray himself as superior to ordinary men, **he tried to create an aura**.
 - He used to wear simple **white colour clothes** to set himself apart and above.
- Nobles had to maintain the proper **decorum** in the court. They had to appear in court in proper dress. An official **Amir-e-Hajib** was appointed to strictly implement court discipline.
- Balban also insisted on the principle that '**Kingship knows no kinship**' i.e. impartial justice.
 - To gain the **support of the common masses**, he gave emphasis over **justice**. Through this measure he tried to give a human face to his despotic regime.
- He adopted a **two-pronged policy towards the Chalisa**.
 - '**Blood and Iron**' was a reflection of Balban's despotism.
 - To break the power of the Turkan-i-chahalgani, he transferred some of the members from one region to another. He also killed some of them and punished some others.
 - All political opposition was ruthlessly suppressed, and rebellion was subdued with extreme prejudice.
 - Any opposition to the Sultan's rule was regarded as high treason and as a violation to the will of God.
 - The **idea of racial superiority** of the Turkish blood was also an important feature of his theory of kinship.
 - According to him, Turks had the exclusive right to rule.
- **Dynastic succession**
 - Balban insisted on dynastic succession.
 - Baban claimed to have descended from Afrasiyab.
 - Named his sons and grandsons after great Persian Kings such as Qaiqubad and Kaykhusraw.
- **Despotism** became a central feature of his policy.

Military Reforms:

- To maintain and perfect the despotic and coercive instrument in the authority of the crown, it was essential to maintain a **strong permanent centralised army**.
 - Increased the **numerical strength** of his army (roughly 3L)
 - Enhanced the soldiers' **pay** and gave some of them the **assignment of villages** as salary.
 - **Military exercises** were more regular.
- **Diwan-e-Arz**
 - In order to create a powerful military base, he created a new department '**Diwan-e-Arz**' under an official 'Ariz-e-Mumalik' responsible for **military administration**.

- **Spy System**
 - He organised the espionage system. This department was placed under an officer '**Barid-i-Mumalik**'.

Three Challenges:

1) Mondol Invasion:

3 stages of the Mongol Policy by Delhi Sultans

Policy of aloofness	Iluttmish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sultanate was not strong, and Mongols were extremely powerful and unified.
Policy of appeasement	From Razia to Nasiruddin Mahmud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was not a good policy as it was based on poor understanding of the Mongol empire. Mongols had splintered in 5, based on tribal legacy with independence. Internal pressure amongst them couldn't be avoided.
Policy of Resistance	From Balban, Khiljis to MBT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By this time, sultanate had become strong, not only to defend but keep Mongols on the backfoot. This policy was introduced by Balban.

Balban's Mongol Policy:

He **laid the foundation** of the Mongol policy of the Delhi Sultanate. In fact, he adopted a **two pronged** strategy against them

- He exchanged embassies with the Mongol courts.
- He created **two defence lines** in order to repulse Mongol invasion.
 - The inner defence line = Samana, Sunam and Bhatinda. **Bughra Khan**, his youngest son, was appointed on this defence line.
 - The outer defense line = Lahore, Multan and Dipalpur. He appointed his son and **crown prince Muhammad Khan** as the **warden of the marches**.



2) Law and Order situation and Meo problem

- In order to restore the law-and-order situation, he constructed some forts in **Delhi and nearby regions** and appointed Afghan mercenaries on these forts.
- Likewise, in the **Gangetic basin** he repaired some old forts and constructed some new ones at Jalali, Patiali and Gopalpur etc.
- In this way he restored the law-and-order situation in the vast region of North India.

3) Revolt of Tughril Khan (1281)

- The revolt by the governor of Bengal, Tughril Khan was a major challenge to him because it affected the relation between the monarchy and the nobility.
- Earlier he sent two military expeditions against Tughril. But these were unsuccessful. So, he himself took command of a huge army against Bengal.

- He adopted the **policy of terror** against Tughril. Tughril Khan was killed with the members of his family.
- It was meant as a lesson to the recalcitrant provincial governors. The Bengal campaign to subjugate Tughril ultimately led to the consolidation of the empire.

Success and Failure:

His success was quite limited.

- In spite of his best efforts, he **couldn't stabilize his dynasty**.
 - Just three years after his death his dynasty was uprooted.
- He gave **too much emphasis over racial exclusiveness**.
 - As a result of this the social basis of the state shrunk.
- Overall, the **Mongol policy was also not successful**.
 - The state frontier in the northwest receded from Indus river to Beas river.
- In the course of implementation of his policies he showed **excessive cruelty**.

In spite of the limitations mentioned above, we can't downsize his achievements. He was the **real consolidator** of Delhi Sultanate.

- He **restored law and order** in the Gangetic basin that was one of the most productive regions in the world. So, it led to **economic growth** in the region.
- It is true that he didn't take interest in political expansion, but it was equally true that his consolidation made the future expansion of Delhi Sultanate possible. That's why we cannot deny that it was Balban who laid the foundation of Khilji imperialism.



Palam Baoli Sanskrit Inscription (1274) during Balban's time:
"The land of Hariyanaka was first enjoyed by the Tomaras and then by the Chauhanas. It is now ruled by the Saka Kings".

- Slave Dynasty Kings were locally known as Saka Kings.
- Delhi is mentioned as Dhillipura and Yoginipura.
- It contains the list of all rulers of Slave Dynasty upto Balban.

Khilji Dynasty (1290-1320)

(1) Jalaluddin Khilji (1290-96)

- The first ruler of Khalji dynasty.
- He founded the Khilji dynasty by overthrowing/murdering **Muizuddin Qaiqabad**.
- His rise to power **ended the monopoly of Turks** in high offices.
- He also tried to mitigate some of the harsh aspects of Balban's rule.
 - He tried to win the goodwill of all his subjects by following a policy of **tolerance/compassion/forgiveness**. For this reason, he was **considered a weak ruler**.
- His forgiveness of Balban's nephew Malik Chajju's revolt for the second time in 1292 was seen as a sign of weakness.
- Ultimately, he was **assassinated by Alauddin Khilji**, his nephew and son-in-law.

(2) Alauddin Khilji (1296-1316) (long rule of 20 years)

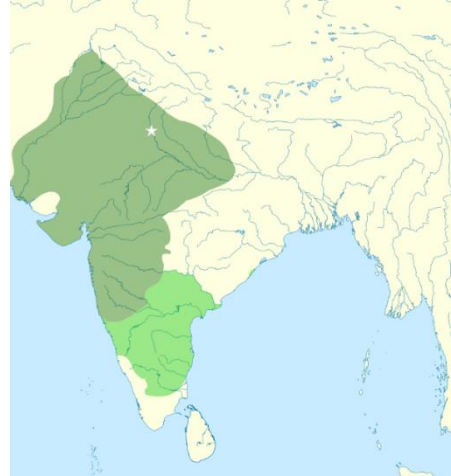
- He had helped Jalaluddin in his rise to power and during that time, he held two offices:
 - **Amir-i-Tuzuk** (master of ceremonies)
 - **Ariz-i-Mumalik** (commander-in-chief).
- During his predecessor's reign he had gained the **reputation for military conquest as a brilliant general**, due to his two victorious campaigns against:
 - Bhilsa/Vidisha (1292) in MP
 - Devagiri (1296) in MH: It was the first Turkish expedition to the south of Vindhya.
- In 1296, he assassinated Jalaluddin, crowned himself Sultan, and propounded his own theory of kingship.

Theory of kingship

He borrowed some elements from Balban's theory and introduced some unique elements of his own.

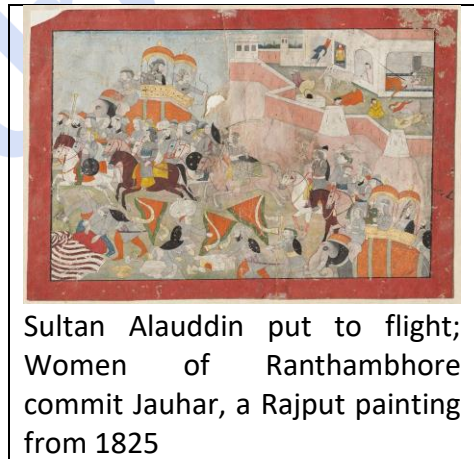
- The **principle of strength** was emphasized upon. According to it, any person of strength and capability could become Sultan, irrespective of race. (Khiljis were not as high in birth as Turks.)
 - Alauddin believed that the crown is justification in itself.
- **Racism was absent**.
 - Alauddin did not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, language or ancestry. This was a reflection of his Afghan origin, as unlike Balban, he could not claim pure Turkish nobility.
 - As a result, he promoted capable people on the basis of merit, including Turks, Afghans, Persians, Tajiks and even Indian Musalmans.
- **Despotism** was central to his theory, even more so than Balban's.
 - According to Alauddin, the king is **answerable only to God**. There should be no secular or religious check on his authority.
- **Secularism** was an extension of Alauddin's despotism.
 - He prohibited the ulema from interfering in state affairs.
 - Thus, he frequently issued '**Zawabit/Urfi**' (secular decrees).

- **Imperialism** was another central feature.
 - Alauddin believed that neighbouring states are necessarily antagonistic. Thus, it was the duty of a strong Sultan to subjugate his neighbours.
 - His dream of conquest is reflected in his title, '**Sikandar-i-sani**' (**Second Alexander**). He was the first Sultan of Delhi to have a conscious policy of imperialism.



In **North** India, he followed the policy of **direct** control:

- 1299, 1304 – Gujarat
 - Last ruler of Waghela dynasty was Karan Deva II.
 - The Delhi forces plundered several major cities: Anahilavada (Patan), Khambhat, Surat and Somnath.
 - **Deval Rani-Khizr Khan**, a romantic masnavi was written by **Amir Khusro**
 - **Prabandha Chintamani** (1304) by Merutunga.
 - This is a Sanskrit collection of semi-historical biographies of various personalities, some royal, some literary.
 - Amir Khusro mentions the destruction of the temple of **Somnath** in 1299.
 - In the second invasion of Gujarat in 1304, it was annexed to the Delhi sultanate.
 - A magnificent **Jami Mosque** was built in **Khambhat** soon afterwards in 1325. It shows the beginning of Indo-Islamic architecture in the context of Gujarat.
- 1301 – Ranthambore
 - Last ruler of Chauhan rulers here was Hammira Deva
 - Hammira Mahakavya by a Jain scholar Nayanachandra Suri.
 - Hammira Raso by Jodharaja
- 1303 – Mewar
 - The last ruler of Guhila dynasty – Ratan Singh
 - Alauddin captured Chittor after an 8-month-long siege. According to Amir Khusro, he ordered a massacre of 30,000 local Hindus after this conquest.
 - Malik Muhammad Jayasi's **Padmavati** was written in 1540 in Awadhi.
 - After the conquest, AK put his son Khizr Khan over the fort of Chittore and it was renamed Khizrabad.
- 1305 – Malwa



- Defeated Paramara dynasty here. The last king was Mahalakadeva.
- While pursuing the king on the run, the army of Alauddin also besieged the fort of Mandu. His execution is mentioned by Jain writer Kakkā Suri in Nabhi-Nandana-Jinoddharana-Prabandha (1336).
- 1308 – Jalore
 - **Kanhadade Prabandh** was written by **Padmanabh** (1455) in Apabhraṃśa language. It gives a story of Ulugh Khan's raid of Gujarat, Kanhadade's victory over Ulugh Khan and then final defeat of Kanhadade and subsequent Jauhar at the fort of Jalore.

In **South India**, Alauddin followed the policy of **indirect control**.

- The south Indian campaigns were led by his trusted general, **Malik Kafur**, who subjugated:
 - 1306 – defeated the Yadavas of Devagiri (MH)
 - 1308 – defeated the Kakatiyas of Warangal (Telangana)
 - **Kohinur Diamond** is taken at this time.
 - 1309 – destroyed the power of Hoysalas at Dwara Samudra (KN)
 - 1310 – Madurai (TN)



Thus, Alauddin transformed the Sultanate from a north Indian principality into a pan Indian empire.

Encounter with Mongols

During Khilji's rule, the Mongols of the Chaghatai Khanate under Duwa Khan repeatedly (**six times**) tried to invade the Indian subcontinent. Khilji, by his military brilliance, managed to defeat the Mongols five times, and avoided defeat a sixth time even when taken by surprise, as the Mongols attacked with massive forces.

Military Reforms

- In order to fulfil his imperialistic ambitions, Alauddin maintained a huge **standing army** of 3,50,000 soldiers.
- He organised his army on the **decimal pattern**.
 - Nobility higher ranks: Khan, Malik, Amir
 - Lower ranks:
 - Sipah salar led 10 sar-e-khalis
 - Sir-e-Khalis (sarkhel) – head of lowest unit of 10 sawars
- He introduced the practice of **Dagh and Huliya**.
- He discontinued the practice of being soldiers through Iqtas. Instead, they received regular **cash salaries**.

Administrative Reforms

Alauddin Khilji was concerned about the possibility of rebellions, which were the most serious challenge to the health of the Sultanate. After deep introspection and consultation, he concluded that these rebellions had the following root causes:

- Excessive wealth with the people
- Negligence of the Sultan's
- Intermarriage among nobles
- Alcohol

In response he proclaimed **four ordinances**:

- To **confiscate all tax-free land grants** such as Inaam, Milk and Waqf; and **abolish all tax exemptions** enjoyed by the upper and lower nobility.
- To **reorganise the spy system**, with a large number of regular spies (**Barid**) and irregular spies (**Muhiyan**).
- All nobles must seek **prior permission from the Sultan before intermarrying**.
- To **prohibit** consumption of **alcohol**.

Revenue reforms

These were part of his larger internal reforms and restructuring, through which he wanted to fill the state treasury so that he could raise a large army. He was also determined to take away the excess wealth from his subjects to prevent the possibility of a rebellion.

- He introduced the **Mashahat** system of **survey and measurement**.
 - A new unit of land measurement known as the **Wafa-i-Biswa** was introduced to measure farm area.
 - Produce was estimated by applying the **average yield** to the farm area.
 - The rate of land revenue was fixed at **50%** of the produce.
- **State bureaucratic apparatus to collect the taxes.**
 - All **intermediaries** such as Khut, Muqaddam etc. were deprived of their revenue collection duties. Their **tax exemptions** were also **abolished**.
 - **Diwan-i-Mustakharaj** was established as revenue collection department.
 - The **Patwari's** accounts were frequently inspected in order to prevent embezzlement. Irregularities were punished severely.
- **Other initiatives to maximize collection:**
 - He collected **arrears** from the upper and lower nobility on a **retrospective basis**.
 - All **tax-free land grants** were **confiscated**.
 - **Ghari** (house tax) and **Charai** (grazing tax) were imposed.
 - The rate of **Khums** was increased to 4/5. (from 1/5)

Market Reforms/ Price Controls:

- This was an **elaborate system of price controls** designed to make the maintenance of a **large army affordable**.
- Also, with the massively successful raids in South India, huge amount of **wealth flowed to Delhi** and the prices were rising, which had to be controlled.
- A new department called **Diwan-i-Riyasat** was created to implement these reforms.

- The Empire was divided into:
 - Free zone
 - Price Control zone – stretched from Lahore to Allahabad.
- Three different kinds of markets for established:

Name	Commodities	Supply management and price control mechanism
Galla Bazar or Anaj Mandi	Grain market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In doab, half the tax was collected in kind to make grains available. Govt warehouses were created. Hoarding was banned. • Banjara's network was regulated with licensing regime. • Only licensed traders were allowed to set up shop inside the market. (Parwana Navis - Permission officers) • An official Shahna-i-Mandi was appointed to maintain law and order. (Malik Kabul Ulugh Khani)
Sarai-e-Adl	Clothe + Essential commodities (sugar, salt, herbs, ghee, oil etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance subsidy to Multani merchants to import silky clothe to the market. • Luxury goods were rationed (Every noble family was given quota)
Market for living beings	Horses, slaves, livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality/category/gradation-wise rates were fixed. • Attempt made to remove middlemen to stabilize the prices.

Other regulations

- **Prices** of all commodities were fixed by the state.
- A strict system of **weights and measures** was introduced (**Najir** - officer of measures and weights)
- **Spies** employed by the state used to report such activities. (**wared** and **munhiyars**)
- **Surprise inspections** were also conducted.

Impact of Price Controls

- Alauddin's price controls were **remarkably successful**. He was able to raise a large army at a low-cost.
- According to Barani, city dwellers benefited from the low prices and easy availability of goods.
- However, food **producers/farmers outside cities suffered**.
 - They were not able to drive the benefit of price controls themselves.
 - Moreover, their bargaining power with respect to grain traders also suffered.
- When Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq came, he reversed the system, and went back to old ways.

Amir Khusro (1253-1325) and the rise of Indo-Persian literature

- His innovations in music (Qawwali, Rang, Qaul etc), literature, in poetry etc. are very well-known.
- He is also an important figure in the development of Hindawi, an earlier form of Hindustani language.

The Khalji sultans and Tughlaqs were particularly careful of **communications**.

- **Barani** gives some details
 - that runners were posted at short stages along the major roads. Horse messengers were kept at longer intervals. At “every town or place where horses were posted, officers and report writers were appointed.”
- **Ibn Battuta** reported on the communication system in place in the 1330s when he visited India.
 - Cavalry posts were located every four *kroh* [Hindi *kos*], while foot runners were every one-third *kroh*.
- Similar arrangements were made by all other rulers of the subcontinent, such as the Bahmanis and Qutbshahis of the Deccan.