

## **DELHI SULTANATE**

The Delhi Sultanate is a term used to cover five short-lived dynasties, Delhi based kingdoms or sultanates, mostly of Turkic and Pashtun (Afghan) origin in medieval India. The sultanates ruled from Delhi between 1206 and 1526, when the last was replaced by the Mughal dynasty. The five dynasties were the Mamluk dynasty (1206–90); the Khilji dynasty (1290–1320); the Tughlaq dynasty (1320–1414); the Sayyid dynasty (1414–51); and the Afghan Lodi dynasty (1451–1526). Qutb-ud-din Aibak, a former slave (Mamluk) of Muhammad Ghori, was the first sultan of Delhi and his dynasty managed to conquer large areas of northern India. Afterwards the Khilji dynasty was also able to conquer most of central India, but both failed to unite the Indian subcontinent. The sultanate is also noted for being one of the few states to repeatedly defeat the Mongol Empire. The Sultanate ushered in a period of Indian cultural renaissance. The resulting "Indo-Muslim" fusion of cultures left lasting syncretic monuments in architecture, music, literature, religion and clothing. It is surmised that the Urdu language (literally meaning "horde" or "camp" in various Turkic dialects) was born during this period as a result of the intermingling of the local speakers of Sanskritic Prakrits with immigrants speaking Persian, Turkic and Arabic under the Muslim rulers. The Delhi Sultanate is the only Indo-Islamic empire to have enthroned one of the few female rulers in India, Razia Sultana (1236–1240). In 1526 the Delhi Sultanate was absorbed by the emerging Mughal Empire.

## **DYNASTIES**

### **Mamluk**

Muhammad Ghori (d. 1206) had extended his state southwards at the expense of the Ghaznavids as far as Lahore and much of Rajasthan and the Punjab and appointed Qutub-ud-din Aibak as governor of this part of his realm. A slave of Cuman-Kipchak origin, he proclaimed independence after the death of his patron and ruled from Delhi. His line is therefore known as the Slave (Mamluk) Dynasty on account of his origin. Aibak began the construction of Qutub Minar, which was completed by Iltutmish, his successor and son-in-law. Aibak's legitimate successor was his son Aramshah, but the nobles preferred Iltutmish, the Subedar of Badaun. Iltutmish was the most able ruler of the Mamluk Sultanate. He trebled the exchequer during his reign. He was followed by Razia Sultana, his daughter, who was a good administrator and the first female sovereign in India. Her rumored relationship with a Sidi adviser, Jamal-ud-Din Yaqut, as he continued to rise in rank, gave her nobles an excuse to revolt against her. After Yaqut was killed and Razia imprisoned, she later wedded Altunia (the Governor of Bhatinda), but she was killed by her nobles after 3 and half years. Balban succeeded her and ruled until 1286 CE. A great Sultan, he was a Sufi devotee and highly regarded their Saints; many a Sufi mystic settled in his sultanate, though only one of them rose to full ascendancy over him. Faced with revolts by conquered territories and rival families in the turmoil for succession after his death, the Mamluk dynasty came to an end in 1290.

### **Khalji**

The Khalji dynasty were the second Muslim dynasty to rule the Delhi Sultanate. The slave rulers laid a firm foundation to the Delhi Sultanate. Naturally Muslims from territories bordering to western northern India migrated to join other Muslim settlers. The first ruler of this dynasty was Jalal-ud-din Feroz Shah Khalji. He was a weak ruler and adopted a lenient policy towards the Mongols. He got one of his daughters married to Ulugh Khan, the Mongol

leader. He was succeeded by his nephew Ali Gurshap, who took the title of Ala-ud-din. He became the Sultan of Delhi in 1296 CE. He brought Gujarat and Malwa under his rule. He was the most able ruler in the Khalji dynasty. He introduced a free market policy in which he decreased the price of all essential items needed in daily life. The customs policies of Ala-ud-din Khalji helped double the exchequer. According to Zia-ud-din Barani, a scholar in the sultan's court said that "no gold, silver, tankas, jitals, on any superfluous commodities, which are the causes of a rebellion, are to be found in the houses of Hindus." After Ala-ud-din's death, there was a war of succession amongst his sons. The last Khalji ruler was Khusrau Malik. He was weak and thus, the Tughluqs captured the throne of Delhi.

### **Tughlaq**

The Tughlaq dynasty lasted for close to a hundred years. During this period, many parts of India, such as the states in southern India became independent. It produced two powerful Sultans, Muhammad bin Tughlaq and Firoz Shah Tughlaq. Ghiyath al-Din Tughlaq (1320–1325), an efficient military commander, was the first ruler of the dynasty. He was succeeded by Jauna Khan, who took the title of Muhammad bin Tughlaq and became the most able ruler of the Tughluq dynasty. He became the Sultan in 1325 CE. His empire covered the regions from Peshawar in the North to Madurai in the South and from Sindh in the west to Assam in the East. Muhammad made attempts at improving the administration of his vast empire. He tried to reform the currency. He minted new copper coins. He ordered that copper coins should be used in place of the gold and silver coins. However, there was no control over the minting of the copper coins. This created a lot of confusion in the transactions. Therefore, Muhammad made arrangements for exchanging gold and silver coins against copper coins. This put a tremendous strain on the government treasury. He had to take back this scheme. He refused to accept the title of Emperor though he expanded his rule to the peninsula. He doubled the exchequer and shifted his capital in 1326 from Delhi to Daulatabad. He was man of ideas, but he lacked the skill required for putting these into practice. That was why, though his ideas were good, they proved unsuccessful. The last few years of his reign witnessed turmoil and rebellions everywhere. His empire began to disintegrate during his own life-time. He died in 1351 CE. He was succeeded by Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351–1388) who was very successful as a reformer.

### **Sayyid**

The Sayyid dynasty ruled Delhi Sultanate in India from 1414 to 1451. They succeeded the Tughlaq dynasty and ruled the Sultanate until they were displaced by the Lodi dynasty.

### **Lodhi**

The Lodi Dynasty was a Pashtun dynasty that was the last Delhi Sultanate. The dynasty founded by Bahlul Khan Lodi ruled from 1451 to 1526. The last ruler of this dynasty, Ibrahim Lodi was defeated and killed by Babur in the first Battle of Panipat on April 20, 1526.

## **SULTANS**

**Mamluk/Slave dynasty:** Qutb-ud-din Aibak (1206–1210), appointed Naib us Sultanat by Muhammad of Ghori, first Muslim Sultan of India, ruled with Delhi as capital.

- Aram Shah (1210–1211)
- Shams ud din Iltutmish (1211–1236), son-in-law of Qut-bud-din Aibak
- Rukn ud din Firuz (1236), son of Iltutmish

- *Raziyyat-ud-din Sultana (1236–1240), daughter of Iltutmish*
- *Muiz ud din Bahram (1240–1242), son of Iltutmish*
- *Ala ud din Masud (1242–1246), son of Ruk-nud-din*
- *Nasir ud din Mahmud (1246–1266), son of Iltutmish*
- *Ghiyas ud din Balban (1266–1286), ex-slave, son-in-law of Sultan Nasir ud din Mahmud*
- *Muiz ud din Qaiqabad (1286–1290), grandson of Balban and Nasir-ud-din*
- *Khalji dynasty*
- *Jalal ud din Firuz Khalji (1290–1296)*
- *Alauddin Khalji (1296–1316)*
- *Umar Khan Khalji (1316)*
- *Qutb ud din Mubarak Shah (1316–1320)*
- *Khusro Khan (1320)*

### **Tughlaq Dynasty**

- *Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq (1320–1325)*
- *Muhammad bin Tughluq (1325–1351)*
- *Mahmud Ibn Muhammad (March 1351)*
- *Firuz Shah Tughluq (1351–1388)*
- *Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq II (1388–1389)*
- *Abu Bakr Shah (1389–1390)*
- *Nasir ud din Muhammad Shah III (1390–1393)*
- *Sikander Shah I (March - April 1393)*
- *Nasir uddin Mahmud Shah (Sultan Mahmud II) at Delhi (1393–1413), son of Nasir uddin Muhammad, controlled the east from Delhi*
- *Nasir uddin Nusrat Shah (1394–1414), grandson of Firuz Shah Tughluq, controlled the west from Ferozabad*

### **Sayyid dynasty**

- *Khizr Khan (1414–1421)*
- *Mubarak Shah (1421–1434)*
- *Muhammad Shah (1434–1445)*
- *Alam Shah (1445–1451)*

### **Lodhi Dynasty**

- *Bahlul Lodi (1451–1489)*
- *Sikandar Lodi (1489–1517)*
- *Ibrahim Lodi (1517–1526), defeated by Babur in the First Battle of Panipat on April 20,*

## MUHAMMAD OF GHOR

Sultan Shahab-ud-Din Muhammad Ghori originally called **Mu'izzuddin Muhammad Bin Sam** (1150 – March 15, 1206), was one of the rulers of the **Ghurid dynasty from the famous house of Sur** who were **rulers of Ghor for five hundred years**. He is credited with laying the foundation of Islamic occupation in India that lasted for several centuries. He reigned over a territory spanning present-day Afghanistan, Pakistan and northern India.

**Muiz-ud-din, son of Sam Suri, nicknamed Shahab-ud-din** which means "The (Flashing) Fire of Religion (Islam)" took the city of Ghazni in 1173 to **avenge the death** of his ancestor **Muhammad Suri at the hands of Mahmud of Ghazni** and used it as a launching-pad for expansion into northern India. In the meantime, **he assisted his brother Ghiyasuddin** in his contest with the Khwarezmid Empire for the lordship of Khorasan in Western Asia. **In 1175 Ghori captured Multan from the Hamid Ludi dynasty** which was also Pashtun but were alleged to be un-Islamic on the account of their association with Ismailite Shi'ite sect and also took Uch in 1175. **He also annexed the Ghaznavid principality of Lahore in 1186**, the last haven of his Afghan but Non-Pashtun Persianized rivals. **After the death of Ghiyasuddin in 1202, he became the successor of the Ghurid Empire and ruled until his assassination in 1206** near Jhelum in modern-day Pakistan.

A confused struggle then ensued among the remaining Ghurid leaders, and the Khwarezmids were able to take over the Ghurids' empire in about 1215. Though the Ghurids' empire was short-lived and petty Ghurid Suri states remained in power until the arrival of Timurids, **Shahabuddin Ghori's conquests laid the foundations of Muslim rule in India**. Qutb-ud-din Aibak, a former slave (Mamluk) of Muhammad Ghori, was the first sultan of Delhi.

**Early life:** Shahab-ud-din Ghori was born **Muizz-ud-din Muhammad Bin Sam** in 1150 CE in the Ghor region of Afghanistan. The exact date of his birth is unknown. His father, **Baha-ud-din Sām bin Hussain**, was the local ruler of the Ghor region at the time.

**The Ghori Empire:** The Ghor region laid on the western boundary of the Ghaznavid Empire, which, in the early 12th century, covered an area stretching from what is now central Afghanistan to the Punjab in what is now Pakistan, with summer capital at Ghazni and winter capital at Lahore.

**Beginning in the mid-12th century, Ghor expressed its independence from the Ghaznavid Empire**. In 1149, the **Ghaznavid ruler Bahram Shah poisoned a local Ghurid leader, Qutb ud-Din**, who had taken refuge in the city of Ghazna after a family quarrel. In revenge, the Ghurid chief **Ala-ud-Din Husain Shah** sacked and burned the city of Ghazna and put the city into fire for seven days and seven nights. It earned him the title of **Jahansuz, meaning "the world burner"**. The Ghaznavids retook the city with Seljuk help, but lost it to Oghuz Turk freebooters. The Ghurids reconquered Ghazna from the Oghuz Turks and in **1173, Shahabuddin Ghori became governor of the Ghazna province while his brother, Ghiyasuddin Ghori, became the Sultan of the Ghurid Empire**.

**Ghurid-Ghaznavid struggles:** Mahmud Ghazni had attacked Ghor and the King Amir Suri, an ancestor of Shahabuddin Ghori, who committed suicide with poison after being taken prisoner. Various sources including Ferishta and Siraj attest to these events.

*In the following year AH 401 (AD 1010), Mahmood led his army towards Ghor.*

*According to Minhaj us Siraj, Amir Suri was captured by Mahmud of Ghazni, taken prisoner along with his son, and taken to Ghazni, where Amir Suri died.*

*Soor, being made prisoner was brought to the king, but having taken poison, which he always kept under his ring, he died in a few hours; his country was annexed to the dominions of Ghizny.*

*A little over a hundred years after Mahmud, one of his successors to the throne of Ghazni fell into a blood feud with the ruler of Ghor, southeast of Herat. In reprisal Ghazni was sacked by the prince of Ghor a fellow Muslim in 1150, and burned for seven days and nights. All the magnificent Mahmudi palaces and halls were destroyed and plunder, devastation and, and slaughter were continuous. It might be a historian reporting one of Mahmud's own murderous Indian raids. The Ghori victor earned the title of Jahansoze, the world burner. The bells ring again: the perpetrations of the northern foreigners were not essentially anti-Hindu. They could be quite merciless with Muslim rivals as well, for that was a part of their way of life. Ghazni now fell to a Turkman tribe which was in its turn ousted by the nephew of Jahansoze in 1173. The latter gave it to his brother later to be known as Muhammad of Ghor.*

*Muhammad of Ghor launched expeditions into India, first capturing Multan from a fellow Muslim chief in 1175–76. Three years later he invaded Gujarat and was roundly defeated by the Hindu King. Another three years later, and Shahabuddin Ghor was back to take Peshawar and Sialkot in 1181. Now in alliance with the Hindu Raja of Jammu Vijaya Dev, he attacked Lahore in 1187, which was held by his ancestral enemy, the descendant of Mahmud of Ghazni, and made him prisoner. Mahmud of Ghazni's line of Sultans and Governors became extinguished.*

*Shahabuddin Ghor is credited with the decimation of the Ghaznavids, his ancestral enemies.*

*In alliance with the Hindu Raja of Jammu Vijaya Dev, he attacked Lahore in 1187, which was held by his ancestral enemy, the descendent of Mahmud of Ghazni, and made him prisoner. Mahmud of Ghazni's line of Sultans and Governors became extinguished.*

### **Invasions of India**

#### **Defeat in the Battle of Kayadara (Gujarat), 1178**

*The battle of Kayadara, Gujarat (1178) was a defeat suffered by Muhammad of Ghor during his first campaign against an Indian ruler in India. Muhammad's first campaign had been against the Muslim rulers of Multan in 1175 and had ended in victory. In 1178 he turned south, and led his army from Multan to Uch and then across the desert towards the Gujarat capital of Anhilwara (modern Patan).*

*Gujarat was ruled by the young Indian ruler Bhimdev Solanki II (ruled 1178–1241), although the age of the Raja meant that the army was commanded by his mother Naikidevi. Muhammad's army had suffered greatly during the march across the desert, and Naikidevi inflicted a major defeat on him at the village of Kayadara (near to Mount Abu, about forty miles to the north-east of Anhilwara). The invading army suffered heavy casualties during the battle, and also in the retreat back across the desert to Multan.*

*Muhammad of Ghor never returned to Gujarat. An army led by Qutb al-din Aibak, his deputy in India, invaded in c.1195–97 and plundered the capital. Bhimdev defeated Aibak again and*

adorned himself as "Abhinav Siddharaj". Gujarat wasn't annexed by the Sultanate of Delhi until 1297. He captured Lahore in 1186 and constructed the fortress of Sialkot.

**Defeat in the First Battle of Tarain, 1191:** In 1191, Ghori proceeded towards Hindustan through the Khyber Pass in modern day Pakistan and was successful in reaching Punjab. Ghori captured a fortress, Bathinda in present-day Punjab state on the northwestern frontier of Prithvirāj Chauhān's kingdom. After appointing a Qazi Zia-ud-Din as governor of the fortress, he received the news that Prithviraj's army, led by his vassal prince Govind Tai were on their way to besiege the fortress. The two armies eventually met near the town of Tarain, 14 miles from Thanesar in present-day Haryana. The battle was marked by the initial attack of mounted Mamluk archers in which Prithviraj responds by counter-attacking from three sides and dominates the battle. Ghori mortally wounds Govind Tai in personal combat and is wounded himself, whereupon his army retreats.

**Victory in the Second Battle of Tarain, 1192:** On his return to Ghazni, Ghori made hectic preparations to avenge the defeat. According to Firishta, the Rajput army consisted of 3,000 elephants, 300,000 cavalry and infantry, most likely a gross exaggeration. Minhaj-i-Siraj, stated Muhammad Ghori brought 120,000 fully armoured men to battle.

Prithviraj had called his banners but hoped to buy time as his banners (other Rajputs under him or his allies) had not arrived. Ghori got news of this and deceitfully sent a letter to Prithviraj for truce. Before the next day, Ghori attacked the Rajput army before dawn. Rajputs had a tradition of fighting from sunrise to sunset. Although they were able to quickly form formations, they suffered losses due to surprise attack before sunrise. Rajput army was eventually defeated and Prithviraj was taken prisoner and subsequently executed.

**Battles of Tarain:** The Battles of Tarain, also known as the Battles of Taraori, were fought in 1191 and 1192 near the town of Tarain (Taraori), near Thanesar in present-day Haryana, approximately 150 kilometres north of Delhi, India, between a Ghurid force led by Sultan Shahabuddin Muhammad Ghauri and a Chauhan Rajput army led by Prithviraj Chauhan.

(The victory of Sultan Mohammad of Ghur was decisive, he took Bihar province in 1193 eradicating Buddhism in that area. Later in 1202, his army completes the occupation of Hindustan by taking the province of Bengal. The victory of Ghori led to the foundation of Sultanate of Delhi. It results in the further conquest of Muslims in India. Ghori made His slave, Qutb-ud-din Aibak, the first king of India and India came under the rule of Muslims.)

**Consolidation of the Ghurid Empire:** When the state of Ajmer failed to fulfill the tribute demands as per the custom after a defeat, Qutub ud Din Aibak, in 1193 took over Ajmer and soon established Ghurid control in northern and central India. Rajput kingdoms like Saraswati, Samana, Kohram and Hansi were captured without any difficulty. Finally his forces advanced on Delhi, capturing it soon after the Battle of Chandwar, a surprise attack on Raja Jaichand of Kannauj (who was originally an ally who had assisted Ghori in defeating Prithviraj Chauhan). Within a year, Ghori controlled northern Rajasthan and the northern part of the Ganges-Yamuna Doab. The Kingdom of Ajmer was then given over to Gola, on condition that he send regular tributes to the Ghurids.

Shahabuddin Ghori, having settled the affairs of the province of Lahore, conferred the government of Lahore on Ali Karmakh who was then the Governor of Multan. In 1206, Shahabuddin Ghori appointed Qutb-ud-din Aibak as his Naib us Sultanat in India at a grand

darbar (court reception) at Lahore, which was attended by a large majority of the nobles and dignitaries of his kingdom. It was at this occasion that Shahabuddin Ghori bestowed upon Qutb-ud-din the title of Aibak, meaning "Axis of the Faith".

Muhammad Ghori returned west to Ghazni to deal with the threat to his western frontiers from the unrest in Iran, but he appointed Aibak as his regional governor for northern India. His armies, mostly under Turkic generals, continued to advance through northern India, raiding as far east as Bengal. Aibak ransacked Ayodhya temples in 1193, followed by his conquest of Delhi. In 1204, after becoming sultan, Shahabuddin Ghori defeated the advance of Muhammad II of Khwārezm. Aibak's protégé Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khalji had been appointed as a general by Muhammad of Ghor in 1203, and in 1204 he helped defeat the army of Lakshman Sen of the Sena Empire.

**Final days and death:** In 1206, Shahabuddin Ghori had to travel to Lahore to crush a revolt. On his way back to Ghazni, his caravan rested at Damik near Sohawa (which is near the city of Jhelum in the Punjab province of modern-day Pakistan). He was assassinated on March 15, 1206, while offering his evening prayers. The identity of Shahabuddin Ghori's assassins is disputed, with some claiming that he was assassinated by local Gakhars and others claiming he was assassinated by Khokhars Hindu.

Hasan Nizami and Ferishta record the killing of Shahabuddin Ghori at the hands of the Gakhars. However, Ferishta may have confused the Ghakars with the Khokhars. Other historians have also blamed Shahabuddin Ghori's assassination to a band of Hindu Jat Khokhars. All the historians before the time of Ferishta agree that the Khokhars, not the Gakhars, killed Shahab ud din Ghori. Some also claim that Shahabuddin Ghori was assassinated by a radical Ismaili Muslim sect.

There is another claim about the death of Muhammad of Ghor, which has considerable appeal, but which is not borne out by historical documents. This is described in the article Prithviraj Raso. Even today Afghans vent their anger by stabbing on the grave of Prithviraj Chauhan, as according to them, Prithviraj had killed Ghori. Sher Singh Rana, a member of Rajput community, visited Afghanistan to trace the grave of Prithviraj Chauhan. He dug Chauhan's "grave" and collected sand from it. This incident created sensation in Indian news and public media – as he said he did it to get back India's pride & respect.

As per his wishes, Shahabuddin Ghori was buried where he fell, in Damik.

**Succession:** Shahabuddin Ghori had no offspring, but he treated his Turkic slaves as his sons, who were trained both as soldiers and administrators and provided with the best possible education. Many of his competent and loyal slaves rose to positions of importance in Shahabuddin Ghori's army and government.

When a courtier lamented that the Sultan had no male heirs, Shahabuddin Ghori retorted:

"Other monarchs may have one son, or two sons; I have thousands of sons, my Turkish slaves who will be the heirs of my dominions, and who, after me, will take care to preserve my name in the Khuṭbah (Friday sermon) throughout these territories."

Shahabuddin Ghori's prediction proved true. After his assassination, his Empire was divided amongst his slaves. Most notably:

- ◆ Qutb-ud-din Aibak became ruler of Delhi in 1206, establishing the Sultanate of Delhi, which marked the start of the Slave dynasty.
- ◆ Nasir-ud-Din Qabacha became ruler of Multan in 1210.
- ◆ Tajuddin Yildoz became ruler of Ghazni.
- ◆ Ikhtiyar Uddin Muhammad bin Bakhtiyar Khilji became ruler in parts of Bengal.

**Legacy:** Muhammad of Ghor is revered by many Pakistanis as a Muslim hero who defeated the Hindu King Prithviraj Chauhan in the 2nd battle of Terain. Some Pakistani Muslims claim descent from Ghor and his Mamluke army. Pakistani military named three of its medium-range ballistic missile Ghauri-I, Ghauri-II and Ghauri-III, in the memory of Muhammad of Ghor.

### **GHIYAS AD-DIN GHORI**

Ghiyas ud-Din Muhammad ibn Sam commonly referred to as Ghiyas ud-Din Ghor, was a ruler of the 12th century Ghorid dynasty whose realm encompassed Khorasan and extended into northern and central India all the way to Bengal.

He fought with the Khwarezmid Empire over the lordship of the region. He occupied Herat in 1176 and went on to establish control over most of what is now Afghanistan and surrounding areas by 1200, in the West as far as Bastam. Shahab-ud-din Muhammad Ghor, his brother helped manage and expand the eastern part of the empire, as far as Bengal, and served Ghiyas ad-Din Muhammad Ghor with utmost loyalty and deference. Ghiyas ad-Din Muhammad Ghor died in 1202–03 and was succeeded by his brother Shahab-ud-din Muhammad Ghor.

### **MAMLUK SULTANATE (DELHI)**

The Mamluk Dynasty (sometimes referred as Slave Dynasty or Ghulam Dynasty) was directed into Northern India by Qutb-ud-din Aybak, a Turkic general from Central Asia. It was the first of five unrelated dynasties to rule India's Delhi Sultanate from 1206 to 1290. Aybak's tenure as a Ghurid dynasty administrator ranged between 1192 to 1206, a period during which he led invasions into the Gangetic heartland of India and established control over some of the new areas.

**History:** Mamluk, literally meaning owned, was a soldier of slave origin who had converted to Islam. The phenomenon started in 9th century and gradually the Mamluks became a powerful military caste in various Muslim societies. Mamluks held political and military power most notably in Egypt, but also in the Levant, Iraq, and India. In 1206, Muhammad of Ghor died. He had no child, so after his death, his sultanate was divided into many parts by his slaves (mamluk generals). Taj-ud-Din Yildoz became the ruler of Ghazni. Mohammad Bin Bakhtiyar Khilji got Bengal. Nasir-ud-Din Qabacha became the sultan of Multan. Qutub-ud-din-Aybak became the sultan of Delhi, and that was the beginning of the Slave dynasty.

Aybak rose to power when a Ghorid superior was assassinated. However, his reign as the Sultan of Delhi was short lived as he died in 1210 and his son Aram Shah rose to the throne, only to be assassinated by Iltutmish in 1211.

The Sultanate under Iltutmish established cordial diplomatic contact with the Abbasid Caliphate between 1228–29 and had managed to keep India unaffected by the invasions of Genghis Khan and his successors. Following the death of Iltutmish in 1236 a series of weak

rulers remained in power and a number of the noblemen gained autonomy over the provinces of the Sultanate. Power shifted hands from Rukn ud din Firuz to Razia Sultana until Ghiyas ud din Balban rose to the throne and successfully repelled both external and internal threats to the Sultanate. The Khilji dynasty came into being when Jalal ud din Firuz Khilji overthrew the last of the Slave dynasty rulers, Muiz ud din Qaiqabad, the grandson of Balban, and assumed the throne at Delhi.

**Architecture:** The architectural legacy of the dynasty includes the Qutb Minar by Qutb-ud-din Aybak in Mehrauli, the Mausoleum of Prince Nasir-ud-Din Mahmud, eldest son of Iltutmish, known as Sultan Ghari near Vasant Kunj, the first Islamic Mausoleum (tomb) built in 1231, and Balban's tomb, also in Mehrauli Archaeological Park.

**Sultans:** The first Sultan was Qutb-ud-din Aibak , who had the titular name of Sultan and reigned from 1206 to 1210. He temporarily quelled the rebellions of Nasir-ud-Din Qabacha of Multan and Tajuddin Yildoz of Ghazni. Making Lahore his capital, he consolidated his control over North India through an administrative hold over Delhi. He also initiated the construction of Delhi's earliest Muslim monuments, the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque and the Qutub Minar. In 1210 he died accidentally while he was playing a game of polo in Lahore on horseback: his horse fell and he was impaled on the pommel of his saddle. He was buried near the Anarkali bazaar in Lahore.

The second Sultan was Aram Shah , who had the titular name of Sultan and reigned from 1210 to 1211. An elite group of forty nobles named Chihalgani ("the Forty") conspired against Aram Shah and invited Shams-ud-din Iltutmish, then Governor of Badaun, to replace Aram. Iltutmish defeated Aram in the plain of Jud near Delhi in 1211. It is not quite certain what became of Aram.

The third Sultan was Shams-ud-din Iltutmish , who had the titular name of Nasir Amir-ul-Mu'minin and reigned from 1211 to 1236. He shifted the capital from Lahore to Delhi and trebled the exchequer. He defeated Nasir-ud-Din Qabacha of Multan and Tajuddin Yildoz of Ghazni, who had declared themselves contenders of Delhi. Mongols invaded India in pursuit of Jalal-ud-din Mangabarni who was defeated at the Battle of Indus by Genghis Khan in 1221. After Genghis Khan's death, Iltutmish consolidated his hold on northern India by retaking many of the lost territories. In 1230, he built the Hauz-i-Shamsi reservoir in Mehrauli, and in 1231 he built Sultan Ghari, which was the first Islamic mausoleum in Delhi.

The fourth Sultan was Rukn-ud-din Feroze , who had the titular name of Sultan and reigned from April 1236 to November 1236. He ruled for only seven months and his mother, Shah Turkan, for all practical purposes was running the government. He abandoned himself to the pursuit of personal pleasure and debauchery, to the considerable outrage of the citizenry. On November 9, 1236, both Rukn-ud-din Feroze and his mother Shah Turkan were assassinated by the Chihalgani.

The fifth Sultana was Razia al-Din, who had the titular name of Jalâlat-ud-dîn Raziya Sultana and reigned from 1236 to 1240. As the first female Muslim ruler in India, she initially managed to impress the nobles and administratively handled the Sultanate well. However, she began associating with the African Jamal-ud-Din Yaqut, provoking racial antagonism amongst the nobles and clergy, who were primarily Central Asian Turkic and already resented the rule of a female monarch. She was defeated by the powerful nobleman Malik Altunia whom she agreed to marry. Her brother Muiz-ud-din Bahram, however, usurped the throne with the help of the

Chihalgani and defeated the combined forces of the Sultana and her husband. The couple fled and reached Kaithal, where their remaining forces abandoned them. They both fell into the hands of Jats and were robbed and killed on October 14, 1240.

The sixth Sultan was Muiz-ud-din Bahram , who had the titular name of Sultan and reigned from 1240 to May 15, 1242. During his reign, the Chihalgani became disorderly and constantly bickered among each other. It was during this period of unrest that the Mongols invaded the Punjab and sacked Lahore. Muiz-ud-din Bahram was too weak to take any action against them, and the Chihalgani besieged him in the White Fort of Delhi and put him to death in 1242.

The seventh Sultan was Ala-ud-din Masud , who had the titular name of Sultan and reigned from 1242 to 1246. He was effectively a puppet for the Chihalgani and did not actually have much power or influence in the government. Instead, he became infamous for his fondness of entertainment and wine. By 1246, the chiefs had become upset with Ala-ud-din Masud's increasing hunger for more power and replaced him with Nasir-ud-din Mahmud, who was another son of Iltutmish.

The eighth Sultan was Nasir-ud-din Mahmud, who had the titular name of Nasir-ud-din Feroze Shah and reigned from 1246 to 1266. As a ruler, Mahmud was known to be very religious, spending most of his time in prayer and was renowned for aiding the poor and the distressed. It was his Deputy Sultan, Ghiyath-ud-din Balban, who primarily dealt with state affairs.

The ninth Sultan was Ghiyath-ud-din Balban who had the titular name of Sultan and reigned from 1266 to 1287. Balban ruled with an iron fist and broke up the Chihalgani group of noblemen. He tried to establish peace and order in India and built many outposts with garrisons of soldiers in areas where there had been disorder. Balban wanted to make sure everyone was loyal to the crown, so he established an efficient espionage system.

The tenth and final Sultan was Muiz-ud-din Muhammad Qaiqabad who had the titular name of Sultan and reigned from 1287 to 1290. Being still young at the time, he ignored all state affairs. After four years, he suffered a paralytic stroke and was later murdered in 1290 by a Khilji chief. His three year old son Kayumars nominally succeeded him, but the Slave dynasty had ended with the rise of the Khiljis.

## **QUTB-UD-DIN AIBAK**

Qutb-ud-din was a Turkic king of Northwest India who ruled from his capital in Delhi where he built the Qutub Minar and the Quwwat Al Islam mosque. He was of Turkic descent from central Asia(modern day Aybak, Samangan, Afghanistan), the first Sultan of Delhi and founder of the Ghulam dynasty (Mamluk Sultanate) of India. He ruled for only four years, from 12 June 1206 to 1210 AD. He died while playing polo in Lahore.

Qutab-ud-din Aibak was the real founder of the Turkish dominion in India. He was born of Turkish parents in Turkestan. When he was merely a boy he was taken to Nishapur by a merchant where he was purchased by the local Qazi as a slave. The Qazi provided for his religious and military training along with his own sons. When the Qazi died, he was sold by his sons to merchant who took him to Ghazni where he was purchased by Muhammad Ghori.

Qutb-ud-din Aibak was "endowed with all laudable qualities and admirable impressions

"though" he possessed on outward comeliness". He attracted the attention of his new master by his courage, manly bearing and generosity.

He proved himself to be so faithful to his master that he was appointed a commander of a section of the army of his master. He was also appointed Amir-i-Akhur or master of the stables. He rendered so valuable services to his master during his Indian expeditions that he was placed in charge of his Indian conquests after the second battle of Tarain in 1192 A.D.

Thus, he was left "untrammelled not only in his administration of the new conquests, but also in his discretion to extend them." Aibak made Indraprastha near Delhi his headquarters. In order to strengthen his own position. Qutb-ud-din Aibak entered into matrimonial alliances with important personalities. He himself married the daughter of Taj-ud-din Yildoz. He married his sister to Nasir-ud-din Qabacha. To Iltutmish, he married his daughter.

In 1192 A.D., he crushed a rebellion in Ajmer and Meerut. In 1194 A.D. he crushed a second rebellion in Ajmer. In the same year, he helped his master Muhammad Ghori in defeating Jai Chandra the ruler of Kanauj, in the battle of Chandwar. In 1197 A.D., he punished Bhimdev of Gujarat, plundered his capital and came back to Delhi by way of Hansi. In 1202 A.D. he besieged the fortress of Kalinjar in Bundelkhand and captured the same. He got a lot of booty. Thousands of persons were made prisoners. He marched to the city of Mahoba and took possession of it. Next he occupied Badaun which was one of the richest cities of Hindustan. One of his lieutenants, Ikhtiyar-ud-din, conquered Bihar and a part of Bengal.

Thus, before his accession to the throne in 1206 A.D, Qutab-ud-din Aibak was already in possession of almost the whole of Northern India as a lieutenant of his master and his representative in India. When Muhammad Ghori died in 1206 A.D. he left no male heir to succeed him. Taj-ud-din Yildoz, Governor of Kirman, ascended the throne of Ghazni.

It seems that it was the desire of Muhammad Ghori that Quab-ud-din should succeed him in India. That was probably the reason why Muhammad Ghori formally invested Quab-ud-din with vicengal powers and conferred upon him the title of Malik. After the death of Ghori the citizen of Lahore invited Quab-ud-din to assume sovereigns powers. He went to Lahore and took up the reigns of government in his hands. However, his formal accession took place on 24th June. 1206. The rise of Quab-ud-din Aibak aroused the jealousy of Taj-ud-din Yildoz of Ghazni. Aibak charged him with exercising undue influence on Mahmud of Feroz Khan and marched against him. In 1208, he even occupied Ghazni and also won over Sultan Mahmud to his own side. He also secured from him a letter of Manumission along with the Paraphernalia of royalty or Chatter and Durbesh and also authority to rule over Ghazni and Hindustan. However, Aibak was driven out of Ghazni by Yildoz. Aibak came back to Lahore. So far as Bengal and Bihar were concerned, the death of Ikhtiyar-ud-din Kalji threatened to break the relation of Delhi with Bengal and Bihar. Ali Mardan Khan declared himself independent of Lakhnauti but the local Khalji chiefs replaced him by Muhammad Sheran and threw him into prison. However, Ali Mardan Khan managed to escape from Jail and went to Delhi. He also persuaded Aibak to intervene into the affairs of Bengal. The Khaljis agreed to recognise Aibak as their overlord. They also agreed to send the annual tribute to Delhi. On account of his being otherwise very busy Aibak could not follow a policy of aggression against the Rajputs. Aibak died in 1210 on account of injuries received as a result of fall from his horse while playing polo. Aibak rendered great services to the cause of Islam in India. For the last two centuries. India was part of the Ghazni kingdom and the interests of the North-Western India suffered on account of the

politics of Ghazni. By making Muslim India independent of Ghazni, Aibak "helped considerably in the expansion of power in India." He built one mosque at Delhi and another at Ajmer.

Aibak was a great military leader. He won a large number of victories in battle fields during the life time of his master and thereby added to his glory. He rarely lost a battle.

The coronation of Aibak took place in 1206 A.D. but his formal manumission, i.e., freedom from slavery, was not obtained by him till 1208 A.D. Ghiyas-ud-din Mahmud of Ghori is reported to have conferred upon him the royal insignia and the title of Sultan, but his inscriptions show that he never got a title higher than that of Malik or Sipahsalar.

It cannot be denied that the right to issue currency is an essential ingredient of sovereignty, but so far not a single gold or silver coin of Aibak has been found. Some of the latest Sultans of Delhi did not accept him as a sultan.

The list of the names of the Sultans of Delhi prepared under the orders of Firoz Shah Tughluq begins with Iltutmish and does not include the name of Aibak. It is pointed out that the character of Muslim rule in India did not change materially during the reign of Aibak.

Yalduz as master of Ghazni continued to claim suzerainty over India. It is true that Aibak occupied Ghazni for some time but he was driven out later on. The result was that the question whether the Turkish possessions in Northern India were a mere colony of a Central Asian empire or a sovereign entity could not be settled. Aibak also was not able to set up a framework of an administrative structure. As a matter of fact, there was not even one capital and Lahore and Delhi were merely two military headquarters.

He was a lover of literature and art. Qutb-ud-din Aibak ruled for four years until he had a fatal accident while playing chaugan (polo). His horse fell and he was impaled on the pommel of his saddle. His early death prevented him completing his plans for organizing his kingdom and establishing a sound administration. He built the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque in Delhi and the dhai-din-ka-Jhonpra mosque in Ajmer. He started the construction of Qutb Minar in Delhi, which is dedicated to a famous Sufi Saint of the time, Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki. After he died, the minar was completed by his successor, Iltutmish. He is also remembered as lakhbaksh or giver of lakhs, because of his generosity.

## **ARAM SHAH**

Aram Shah (probably reigned 1210–1211) was the second sultan of the Mamluk Sultanate (Slave Dynasty). The relationship of Aram with Qutb-ud-din Aibak (1206–1210) is a subject of controversy. According to some, he was Aibak's son, but Minhaj-us-Siraj distinctly writes that Qutb-ud-din only had three daughters. Abul Fazl has made the "astonishing statement" that he was the Sultan's brother. A modern writer has hazarded the opinion that "he was no relation of Qutub-ud-din" but was selected as his successor as he was available on the spot. In fact, there were no fixed rules governing the succession to the Crown in the Turkish State. It was determined largely by the exigencies of the moment and the influence of the Chihalgani or 'Corp of Forty'. The Chihalgani, who were the administrative and military elite of the Ilbari tribe, crowned him king thinking that he would be able to deal with the problems facing the Sultanate. Aram was ill-qualified to govern a kingdom. The Chihalgani soon conspired against him and invited Shams-ud-din Iltutmish, then Governor of Badaun, to replace Aram. Iltutmish responded to their call, and, advancing with his entire army, defeated Aram on the plain of Jud near Delhi in 1211. What became of Aram is not quite certain.

## **SHAMS-UD-DIN ILTUTMISH**

Shams-ud-din Iltutmish (r. 1211–1236) was the third ruler of the Mamluk dynasty of Delhi of Turkic origin. He was a slave of Qutb-ud-din Aibak and later became his son-in-law and close lieutenant. He was the Governor of Badaun when he deposed Qutub-ud-din's successor Aram Shah and acceded to the throne of the Delhi Sultanate in 1211. He shifted Capital from Lahore to Delhi, remained the ruler until his death on May 1, 1236. Iltutmish introduced the silver tanka and the copper jital-the two basic coins of the Sultanate period, with a standard weight of 175 grains. He introduced Iqtadari system: division of empire into Iqtas, which were assigned to the nobles and officers in lieu of salary.

He built the Hauz-i-Shamsi reservoir in Mehrauli in 1230, which also has Jahaz Mahal standing on its edge, used by later Mughal Emperors. In 1231, he built Sultan Ghari the mausoleum of his eldest son, Prince Nasir-ud-Din Mahmud, which was the first Islamic Mausoleum in Delhi. He built the massive and handsome Jama Masjid in Badayun, that was the largest mosque of the country that time and still the second largest now. His own tomb exists, within the Qutb complex in Mehrauli, Delhi.

He suppressed all internal revolts and also checked external invaders successfully. He got completed the construction of qutub minar.

### **Early life and career**

Shams-ud-din belonged to the tribe of Ilbari in Turkestan. He was sold into slavery at an early age. He was purchased by Qutub-ud-din-Aybak, then Viceroy of Delhi,. He rose quickly in Aybak's service, married his daughter, and served in succession as the Governor of Gwalior and Baran. In recognition of his services during the campaign of Muhammad of Ghur against the Khokhars in 1205-06, he was, by the Sultan's order, manumitted. Iltutmish was appointed Governor of Badaun in 1206 and was serving in this post when Aybak died in a polo accident and a group of noblemen invited Iltutmish to stake his claim on the Indian dominions of the Ghurids.

### **Sultan of Delhi**

#### **Rise to power**

In 1210, Qutb-ud-din Aibak died. Muizzi amirs, who had been appointed by Muhammad of Ghor supported Aram Shah. Qutbi amirs, owing allegiance to Aibak, invited Iltutmish, then Governor of Badaun, to seize power in Delhi. Aram Shah acceded to the throne in Lahore. In 1211, Iltutmish claimed the throne in Delhi. Aram Shah marched towards Delhi but was slain in battle at Bagh-i-Jud leaving Iltutmish unopposed in Delhi.

#### **Early challenges**

On his accession, Iltutmish faced a number of challenges to his rule. In the aftermath of Aibak's death, the Ghurid dominions in India had divided into four. Iltutmish controlled Delhi. Nasir-ud-Din Qabacha, the Governor of Uch and Multan asserted his independence. Ali Mardan Khilji, who had been appointed Governor of Lakhnauti in Bengal by Aibak in 1206, had thrown off his allegiance to Delhi after his death and styled himself Sultan Ala-ud-din. His successor, Ghiyasuddin, conquered Bihar. Lahore was contested by Iltutmish, Qabacha and Tajuddin Yildoz, Muhammad of Ghor's adopted son and successor in Ghazni. Yildoz attempted

to bring Delhi under his control. Initially, Iltutmish acknowledged Yildoz's suzerainty by accepting the symbolic presents of the *chatr* and *durbash*. The Hindu princes and chiefs were discontented at their loss of independence and had recovered Kannauj, Benaras, Gwalior, and Kalinjar had been lost during Qutub-ud-din's reign while Ranthambore had been reconquered by the Chauhans during Aram Shah's rule. To add to Iltutmish's troubles, some of the Amirs of Delhi expressed resentment against his rule.

The first order of business was to bring under control dependencies of Delhi that were under the control of Muizzi nobles and Hindu chieftains. Iltutmish launched military campaigns to assert his rule over Awadh, Badaun, Benares and Siwalik. Iltutmish's son Nasir-ud-din Mahmud captured the Gangetic valley territories of Budaun, Benaras, and Kanauj. Rohilkhand was taken with heavy losses.

In 1215-1216, Yildoz, who had been defeated and expelled from Ghazni by the forces of the Shah of Khwarezm, moved towards Punjab and captured Lahore from Qabacha. Yildoz laid claim to the throne of Delhi as the heir to Muhammad of Ghor. Iltutmish refused, stating

the dominion of the world is enjoyed by the one who possesses the greatest strength. The principle of hereditary succession is not extinct but long ago destiny abolished this custom.

Iltutmish defeated Yildoz at Tarain. Yildoz was imprisoned in Badaun and was later executed. This ended Ghazni's aspirations to dominate northern India.

After the death of Yildoz, Qabacha had retaken Lahore. In 1217, Iltutmish led his army towards Qabacha. Qabacha attempted to retreat from Lahore towards Multan but was defeated at Mansura. Iltutmish refrained from attacking Sindh due to the presence of Mongols on his north-west frontier. Iltutmish was preoccupied with the Mongol threat and did not threaten Qabacha until 1227. Lahore was under Iltutmish's rule but not for long.

### **Mongol threat**

In 1221, the Mongols, under Genghis Khan appeared for the first time on the banks of the Indus. They had overrun the countries of Central and Western Asia with lightning rapidity. The Mongols captured Khiva and forced its ruler, Jalal ad-Din Mingburnu to flee to the Punjab. Mingburnu entered into an alliance with the Khokhars and captured Lahore and much of the Punjab. He requested an alliance with Iltutmish against the Mongols. The Sultan of Delhi refused, not wishing to get into a conflict with Genghis Khan and marched towards Lahore at the head of a large army. Mingburnu retreated from Lahore and moved towards Uchch inflicting a heavy defeat on Qabacha, and plundered Sindh and northern Gujarat and returned to Persia in 1224. The Mongols invested Multan before leaving as well.

### **Consolidation of power**

Loath to get into a conflict with the Mongols, Iltutmish turned his attention towards the east. Iltutmish marched against Ghiyasuddin in 1225 and was successful. Ghiyasuddin accepted Iltutmish's suzerainty, ceded Bihar, and paid a large tribute. However, soon after Iltutmish left, Ghiyasuddin revoked the agreement and retook control of Bihar. Iltutmish's son Nasiruddin Mahmud, Governor of Awadh was tasked with dealing with Bengal. In 1227, when Ghiyasuddin was campaigning in Assam, Mahmud launched a sudden attack, capturing Lakhnauti. Ghiyasuddin was imprisoned and then executed. Mahmud died in 1229. This led to further revolts by the Khalji Malik of Bengal until Iltutmish captured Lakhnauti again in 1230. Ala-ud-din Jani was appointed Governor of Lakhnauti.

Ilutmish then turned his attention to Qabacha. Capture of Bengal and Rajput territories had significantly enhanced the state of Ilutmish's treasury whereas Qabacha had been weakened by Mingburnu's sack of Uchch and the Mongol siege of Multan. The upheaval caused by the Mongol invasion had led to a large number of military adventurers and officers from Turkic lands to move to India. Ilutmish's replenished treasury allowed him to recruit a large army. A number of officials also defected from Qabacha's camp. In 1228, Ilutmish attacked Qabacha. Uchch was captured after a siege of three months. Qabacha fled and was surrounded on all sides in the fort of Bhakkar, on the banks of Indus. He drowned while attempting to escape. Sindh and Multan were incorporated into the Delhi Sultanate and placed under separate governors.

In 1228-29, Ilutmish received emissaries from the Abbasid Caliph Al-Mustansir and was presented with the Caliphal robe (khilat) and investiture (manshur) signifying the Caliphate's recognition of Ilutmish's rule over India. Such recognition was highly sought after by the Sunni Muslim rulers of India as it lent religious and political legitimacy and prestige. In Ilutmish's case, in particular, this was a symbolic declaration of the Delhi Sultanate's status as an independent kingdom rather than a client of the Ghurids.

Due to his problems first with Turkic nobles and then with the Mongols, Ilutmish had also ignored the Rajputs, who had regained territory lost earlier to the Turks, for the first fifteen years of his reign. Starting in 1226, however, Ilutmish began a series of campaigns against the Rajputs. Ranthambore, considered impregnable was taken in 1226, Mandsaur in 1227. Bayana, Ajmer and Sambhar were also captured. Ranthambore was returned to its Chauhan rulers, who served as feudatories, while Ajmer remained part of the Delhi Sultanate. Nagaur was captured in 1230 and Gwalior was captured in 1231 after a one year siege. Ilutmish's army was forced to retreat with heavy losses from Gujarat by the ruling Chalukyas. In 1235, Ilutmish sacked Ujjain and destroyed its temples including the Mahakala Temple.

He built Gandhak-ki-Baoli, a stepwell for Sufi saint, Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki, who moved to Delhi during his reign

### **Death and succession**

In 1236 Ilutmish died, and was buried in the Qutb complex in Mehrauli. The death of Ilutmish was followed by years of political instability at Delhi. During this period, four descendants of Ilutmish were put on the throne and murdered. Ilutmish's eldest son, Nasir-ud-din Mahmud, had died in 1229 while governing Bengal as his father's deputy. The surviving sons of the Sultan were incapable of the task of administration. In 1236, Ilutmish, on his death-bed, nominated his daughter Razia as his heiress. But, Razia did not have support of the nobles of the court, who did not want a woman ruler.

Ilutmish's eldest surviving son, Rukn-ud-din Firuz was raised to the throne. Firuz left governance in the hands of his mother, Shah Turken. Firuz was deposed within six months, and Razia became the ruler. Razia's growing assertiveness brought her in conflict with the nobles. In 1240, a rebellion led to the replacement of Razia by her brother, Muiz-ud-din Bahram. Bahram ruled for two years before he was overthrown in favour of Firuz's son, Ala-ud-din Masud in 1242.

Order was re-established only after Ilutmish's grandson Nasir-ud-din-Mahmud became Sultan with Ghias-ud-din-Balban as his Deputy Sultan (Naib) in 1246. Balban held all the power at the time and became Sultan in 1266. There was internal stability from 1246 until 1290 when

Jalal-ud-din Khilji overthrew Balban's Successor Kaikubad, thus ending the Mamluk Dynasty and founded the Khilji Dynasty.

### **Coinage**

The early Ghurid rulers had maintained the Rajput coinage system based on the Hindushahi bull-and horseman coins in place at the Delhi mint. Dehliwala, the standard coin, was a silver-copper alloy with a uniform weight of 3.38 grams, of which 0.59 grams was Silver. The major source of silver for the Delhi mint were coin hoards from Central Asia. Another source was European silver which made its way to Delhi via the Red Sea, Persian Gulf through the ports of Gujarat. By the 1220s, supply from Central Asia had dried up and Gujarat was under control of hostile forces.

In response to the lack of silver, Iltutmish introduced a new bimetallic coinage system to Northern India consisting of a 11 gram silver Tanka and the billon Jital, with 0.25 grams of silver. The Dehliwala was devalued to be on par with the Jital. This meant that a Dehliwala with 0.59 grams of silver was now equivalent to a coin with 0.25 grams of silver. Each Dehliwala paid as tax, therefore produced an excess 0.34 grams of silver which could be used to produce Tankas. The new system served as the basis for coinage for much of the Sultanate period and even beyond, though periodic shortages of silver caused further debasement. The Tanka is a forerunner to the Rupee.

## **RUKN UD DIN FIRUZ**

Rukn ud din Firuz was the fourth sultan of the Mamluk Sultanate, who ruled for just seven months. He was the son of Shams ud din Iltutmish (1211–1236) and was raised to become Iltutmish's heir. However after Iltutmish's death in April 1236 he was viewed as being unfit to rule and was murdered in November 1236. Raziyyat ud din Sultana, Iltutmish's daughter, succeeded him as ruler.

## **RAZIA SULTANA**

Raziyya al-Din (1205–October 13, 1240), throne name Jalalat ud-Din Raziya, usually referred to in history as Razia Sultan, was born in Budaun and was the Sultan of Delhi in India from 1236 to May 1240. Like some other Muslim princesses of the time, she was trained to lead armies and administer kingdoms if necessary. Razia Sultana was the only woman ruler of both the Sultanate and the Mughal period, although other women ruled from behind the scenes. Razia refused to be addressed as Sultana because it meant "wife or mistress of a sultan". She would answer only to the title "Sultan". Razia had all qualities of a great monarch.

### **Reign as Sultan and Death**

Razia succeeded her father Shams-ud-din Iltutmish to the Sultanate of Delhi in 1236. Iltutmish became the first sultan to appoint a woman as his successor when he designated his daughter Razia as his heir apparent. Razia was the first and last women ruler of Delhi Sulnate. (According to one source, Iltutmish's eldest son had initially been groomed as his successor, but had died prematurely.) But the Muslim nobility had no intention of acceding to Iltutmish's appointment of a woman as heir, and after the sultan died on April 29, 1236, Razia's brother, Rukn ud din Firuz, was elevated to the throne instead.

Ruknuddin's reign was short. With Iltutmish's widow Shah Turkaan for all practical purposes

running the government, Ruknuddin abandoned himself to the pursuit of personal pleasure and debauchery, to the outrage of the citizenry. On November 9, 1236, both Ruknuddin and his mother Shah Turkaan were assassinated after only six months in power.

With reluctance, the nobility agreed to allow Razia to reign as Sultan of Delhi. She dressed like a man and sat in open durbar. She was an efficient ruler and possessed all the qualities of a Monarch. As a child and adolescent, Razia had little contact with the women of the harem, so she had not learnt the customary behavior of women in the Muslim society that she was born into. Even before she became Sultan, she was reportedly preoccupied with the affairs of state during her father's reign. As Sultan, Razia preferred a man's tunic and headdress; and contrary to custom, she would later show her face when she rode an elephant into battle at the head of her army.

A shrewd politician, Razia managed to keep the nobles in check, while enlisting the support of the army and the populace. Her greatest accomplishment on the political front was to manipulate rebel factions into opposing each other. At that point, Razia seemed destined to become one of the most powerful rulers of the Delhi Sultanate.

But Razia miscounted the consequences that a relationship with one of her advisers, Jamal-ud-Din Yaqut, an Abyssinian Siddi (Habshi) slave, would have for her reign. According to some accounts, Razia and Yaqut were lovers, other sources simply identify them as close confidants. In any case, before long she had aroused the jealousy of the Turkic nobility by the favoritism she displayed toward Yaqut, who was not a Turk, when she appointed him to be Superintendent of the Stables. Eventually, a childhood friend named Malik Altunia, the governor of Bhatinda, joined a rebellion by other provincial governors who refused to accept Razia's authority.

A battle between Razia and Altunia ensued, with the result that Yaqut was killed and Razia taken prisoner. To escape death, Razia agreed to marry Altunia. Meanwhile, Razia's brother, Muizzuddin Bahram Shah, had usurped the throne. After Altunia and Razia undertook to take back the sultanate from Bahram through battle, both Razia and her husband were defeated on 24th of Rabi' al-awwal A.H. 638 (Oct. 1240). They fled Delhi and reached Kaithal the next day, where their remaining forces abandoned them. They both fell into the hands of Jats and were robbed and killed on 25th of Rabi' al-awwal A.H. 638, this date corresponds to October 13, 1240. Bahram, for his part, would later be dethroned for incompetence.

### **Legacy**

Razia is said to have pointed out that the spirit of religion was more important than its parts, and that even the Islamic prophet Muhammad spoke against overburdening the non-Muslims. On another occasion, she reportedly tried to appoint an Indian Muslim convert from Hinduism to an official position but again ran into opposition from the nobles.

Razia was reportedly devoted to the cause of her empire and to her subjects. There is no record that she made any attempt to remain aloof from her subjects, rather it appears she preferred to mingle among them. Razia established schools, academies, centers for research, and public libraries that included the works of ancient philosophers along with the Quran and the traditions of Muhammad. Hindu works in the sciences, philosophy, astronomy, and literature were reportedly studied in schools and colleges.

### **Controversy regarding Razia's Grave**

There are conflicting accounts regarding her actual site of grave. There are at least three

claims regarding her grave site. This is compounded by the fact that none of the 3 grave sites has any epitaph on tombstone in memory of the one buried there. So far there are no archaeological or documentary evidences to confirm the site of her grave. The dispute is whether she was buried in Kaithal or Delhi or Tonk, and also where were Altunia and Yakut buried.

### **Claim regarding Razia's Grave at Old Delhi**

First claim is that Razia's grave lies among the narrow lanes of Old Delhi that is in a courtyard in Bulbul-i-khana, Shahjahanabad, near the Turkman Gate entrance. Crumbling and covered by dust and grime, the grave has clearly suffered the ravages of time. The grave is surrounded on all sides by unattractive residential buildings not yet given over to INTACH for demolition and gentrification purposes. In the 13th century, the site of the tomb was a jungle, and no one knows how Razia's body ended up where it lies today. A second grave, believed to be that of her brother, Rukn ud din Firuz, accompanies Razia's. Some of the Muslim residents of the neighborhood have turned a part of the tomb into a mosque, where prayers are conducted five times each day.

### **Claim regarding Razia's Grave at Siwan near Kaithal in Haryana**

Second claim is that the tomb of Razia is situated in Siwan near Kaithal city, Haryana state. The tomb lies in the north-western suburbs of the city where, a few years back, a jail was erected by the present administration. A newsletter of the Haryana chapter of Intach-Virasat says " Restoration of Razia Sultan's tomb at Kaithal and its beautification was prepared by HUDA engineers at an estimated cost of Rs. 52.85 lakhs. The absence of response from the Waqf Board that had been approached for release of funds was noted, and the Haryana chapter now proposes to approach some corporate sector companies." Given the controversy surrounding her grave site, it is possible that she may have been initially interred at Kaithal and then later at Delhi but this remains purely a speculation with no evidence of any kind.

### **Claim regarding Razia's Grave at Tonk in Rajasthan**

Third and more recent claim that she and her African slave paramour are buried at Tonk in Rajasthan where her father Iltumish had laid a siege. The controversy and re-examination of historical facts arose after Sayed Sadique Ali, an Urdu lecturer at the local government post-graduate college claimed that the graves at the site are that of Razia and her trusted slave, Yaqut. He based his findings on the calligraphic Arabic script deciphered by the pattern of stones of irregular shapes affixed around the graves. The stones convey a particular message which, according to him, is: "Shahide Muhabbat Quvvatul-Mulk Jamaluddin Yaqut" around the smaller grave, and on the main grave, situated at a higher level, it reads: "Sultanul Hind Razia."

### **In popular culture**

Being the first female monarch of the Delhi Sultanate, Razia Sultan has been the subject of many legends. A piece of historical fiction entitled 'Razia: Queen of India' based on the Sultana's life written by Rafiq Zakaria in 2000. The Sultana also has her own title in the Indian comic book series, Amar Chitra Katha. More recently, she was the subject of Razia Sultan, a 1983 urdu film, written and directed by Kamal Amrohi, starring Hema Malini as Razia and Dharmendra as Jamal-ud-Din Yaqut. Razia Sultana also features in an online comic strip entitled "Razia Sultan" by Halima Voyles. In the comic, Razia features as a female sultan dealing with the disgruntled Turkish nobility and courts, the disapprobation of her brothers

Rukn and Muiz, her sister Shazia and her love struck childhood friend Altunia.

**Jamal-ud-Din Yaqut** was an African Siddi slave-turned-nobleman who was a close confidante of Razia Sultana, the first female monarch of the Delhi Sultanate in India, and who is speculated to have been her lover. Razia Sultana's patronage made him an influential member of the court, provoking racial antagonism amongst the nobles and clergy, who were both primarily Turkish and already resentful of the rule of a female monarch. Jamal-ud-Din Yaqut lived during the time of the Sultan Iltutmish and then Razia Sultan, sometime from 1200 to 1240 CE, when he was slain in a revolt against Razia Sultan. Yaqut was a habshi. Habshi's were enslaved Africans of East African descent frequently employed by Muslim monarchs in India for their reputed physical prowess and loyalty and as such were an important part of the armies and administration of the Delhi Sultanate. Yaqut rose in the ranks of the Delhi court, and found favour with the first female monarch of the Mamluk dynasty, Razia Sultana. Yaqut soon became a close advisor and was widely rumoured in the court and amongst the nobles to be the queen's lover. Contemporary historians were also conflicted in their assessment — many including Ibn Battuta record that their relationship was illicit and too intimate in public, but others assert that Yaqut was just a close advisor and friend. A particular incident that provoked the rumours was when Yaqut was observed sliding his arms under the queen's armpits to hoist her onto a horse, which was seen as a flagrant act of intimacy. His power and influence grew through his close relationship with Razia Sultana, who appointed him to the important post of superintendent of the royal stables, giving a loyalist an important post and challenging the power of the Muslim nobles and orthodox leaders. She awarded him the honorific title Amir-al-Khayl (Amir of Horses) and later the much higher Amir al-Umara (Amir of Amirs), much to the consternation and outrage of the Turkish nobility. Already resented for being a woman ruler by the Muslim nobles and clerics, Razia's proximity to an Abyssinian slave (considered racially inferior to the Turkish nobles who ruled the Sultanate) alienated the nobility and clerics and soon provoked open rebellion and conspiracy. A rebellion led by Malik Altunia, the governor of Bhatinda (Punjab) broke out against Razia and Yaqut; fearing a siege, Razia and Yaqut chose to go out of Delhi to engage the rebels. Forces loyal to Razia and Yaqut were routed by Altunia; Yaqut was killed and Razia was imprisoned until she married Altunia; however, both Razia and Altunia were subsequently killed in battle against Razia's brother Bahram Shah, who had usurped the throne of Delhi in Razia's absence.

### **MUIZ UD DIN BAHRAM**

Muiz ud din Bahram (1236) was the sixth sultan of the Mamluk Dynasty (or Slave Dynasty). He was the son of Shams ud din Iltutmish (1211–1236) and brother of Razia Sultan (1236–1240). While his sister was in Bathinda, he declared himself king with the support of forty chiefs. His sister tried to regain the throne with the aid of her husband Altunia, a chief of Bathinda, though they were eventually arrested and executed. Even so, during Muiz ud din Bahram's two years as king, the chiefs that had originally supported him became disordered and constantly bickered among each other. It was during this period of unrest that he was murdered by his own army in 1242 (died 15 May 1242). After his death, he was succeeded by Ala ud din Masud, a son of Rukn ud din Firuz.

Ogedei Khan of the Mongol Empire appointed Dayir commander of Ghazni and Menggetu commander in Kunduz. In winter 1241 the Mongol force invaded the Indus valley and besieged Lahore. Dayir died storming the town, however, on 30 December 1241, and the

Mongols butchered the town before withdrawing from the Delhi Sultanate. The sultan was too weak to take step against them. The "Forty Chiefs" besieged him in the White Fort of Delhi and put him to death.

### **ALA UD DIN MASUD**

Ala ud din Masud (1242-1246) was the seventh sultan of the Mamluk dynasty (Slave dynasty). He was the son of Rukn ud din Firuz (1236) and the nephew of Razia Sultan (1236-1240). After his predecessor, Muiz ud din Bahram, was murdered by the army in 1242 after years of disorder, the chiefs chose for him to become the next ruler. However, he was more of a puppet for the chiefs and did not actually have much power or influence in the government. Instead, he became infamous for his fondness of entertainment and wine. By 1246, the chiefs became upset with Ala ud din Masud's increasing hunger for more power in the government, and replaced him with Nasir ud din Mahmud (1246-1266), another son of Iltutmish.

### **NASIR UD DIN MAHMUD**

Nasir ud din Mahmud, Nasir ud din Firuz Shah (1246–1266) was the eighth sultan of the Mamluk Sultanate (Slave dynasty). He was the son of Nasiruddin Mahmud (died-1229), who was the youngest son of Shams ud din Iltutmish (1211–1236). He was named after his father, by Shams ud din Iltutmish, for he had grown an intense filial attachment, to the only begot son of his posthumous child. He succeeded Ala ud din Masud after the chiefs replaced Masud when they felt that he began to behave as a tyrant.

As a ruler, Mahmud was known to be very religious, spending most of his time in prayer and renowned for aiding the poor and the distressed. However, it was actually his Deputy Sultan or Naib, Ghiyas ud din Balban, who primarily dealt with the state affairs. After Mahmud's death in 1266, Balban (1266–1287) rose to power as Mahmud had no children to be his heir.

**Personal Life:** Unlike many of his predecessors and successors, Mahmud strictly followed monogamy. He spent most of his times writing down verses of Quran. He sold the handwritten copies and used the money for his personal expenses. Surprising enough, he had no servants to carry out his personal tasks. His wife had to cook the food for the family.

**Sultan Ghari:** Mahmud's fortified tomb built by Iltutmish, known as Sultan Ghari, lies in the Vasant Kunj area, close to Mehrauli, in New Delhi. Built in 1231 AD, it was the first Islamic Mausoleum built in India. The octagonal tomb chamber, is one of finest examples of Mamluk dynasty architecture, which also include the Qutub Minar.

### **GHIYASUDDIN BALBAN**

Ghiyasuddin Balban (reigned: 1266 – 1287) was the ninth sultan of the Mamluk dynasty.

#### **Early Life:**

He was son of a Central Asian Turkic noble of the Ilbari tribe, but as a child he was captured by Mongols and sold as a slave at Ghazni. Prof K.Ali (1950, reprint 2006) "A new history of Indo-Pakistan", Later, he was bought by Sultan Iltutmish in 1232 CE.

He was liberally educated. He introduced the Persian culture of Zaminbos that is lying flat on one's face before the emperor. He was first appointed as Khasdar (king's personal attendant) by the Sultan. He became the head of the Chalissa, a group of forty Turkic nobles of the state.

After the overthrow of Razia Sultana, he made rapid strides in the subsequent reigns. He was initially the Prime Minister of Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud from 1246 to 1266 and married his daughter. Since Sultan Nasiruddin did not have male heir, after his death, Balban declared himself the Sultan of Delhi. Balban ascended the throne in 1266 at the age of sixty with the title of Ghyasuddin Balban.

### **Military Campaigns:**

One of famous military campaigns of Balban was against Meo, or Mayo, the people of Mewat who used to plunder the people of Delhi even in the day light. He took upon himself the task of chastising the turbulent people of Mewat, the region south of Delhi.

During his reign, Balban ruled with an iron fist. He broke up the 'Chahalgani', a group of the forty most important nobles in the court. He tried to establish peace and order in the country of India. He built many outposts in areas where there was crime and garrisoned them with soldiers. Balban wanted to make sure everyone was loyal to the crown by establishing an efficient espionage system. Sultan Balban had a strong and well-organized spy system. Balban placed secret reporters and news-writers in every department. The spies were independent authority only answerable to Sultan. Balban was strict administrator of justice. He did not show any partiality even to his own kith and kin. About his justice Dr. Ishwari Prasad remarked "So great was the dread of Sultan's inexorable justice that no one dared to ill-treat his servant and slaves." When a complaint was made that Malik Baqbaq, a powerful landlord of Badaun killed one of his own servant, Balban ordered his death sentence. The news-writer(spy), who was responsible for Badaun reporting was also executed because he failed to report this act of injustice to Sultan.

He ruled as the Sultan from 1266 until his death in 1286, and was succeeded by his grandson, Muiz ud din Qaiqabad, who reign (1287–1290). His successors were weak and incompetent and the throne was eventually captured by Jalal ud din Firuz Khilji in 1290, bringing an end to the Slave dynasty.

Today, Tomb of Balban wherein a true arch and a true dome were built of the first time in India, lies within the Mehrauli Archaeological Park in Delhi, adjacent to which stands that of his son Khan Shahid and wall mosque. The domes of both the tombs have collapsed and the structures are ruined structures were restored in the recent years when the conservation work began in the park.

### **MUIZ UD DIN QAIQABAD**

Muiz ud din Qaiqabad (reigned 1287–1290) was the tenth sultan the Mamluk dynasty (Slave dynasty). He was the son of Bughra Khan the then Independent sultan of Bengal, as well as grandson of Ghiyas ud din Balban (1266–1287).

After the death of his son Muhammad, in 1286 at the hands of the mongols, Ghiyas ud din Balban was in an unrecoverable state of shock. In his last days he called his son Bughra Khan, who was then the Governor of Bengal, to stay with him, but due to the stern nature of his father he slipped away to Bengal. Eventually, Balban chose his grandson and son of Muhammad, Kay Khusroe, to be his successor. However, when Balban died, Fakhr-ud-Din, the Kotwal of Delhi, set aside the nomination and chose for Muiz ud din Qaiqabad, son of Bughra Khan, to become ruler instead, he was only 17 years old.

**Reign:** After he became the Sultan, he indulged in the life of wine and women, the example set

by the Sultan was also followed by his courtiers. His army met with his father's Bengal army near North Bihar, but due to the love for his father he ran towards him to embrace him crying. No battle took place and a lasting peace treaty was agreed between Bengal and Hindustan, which was even respected by his successors. On his return to Delhi, he transferred Nizam-ud-Din to Multan, seeing the latter's hesitation, the Sultan ordered him to be poisoned. He appointed Jalal ud Din Firuz Khilji as a new commander of the army, but the murder and appointment sent a wave of dissent amongst the Turkish nobility. Taking advantage of this Jalal-ud-Din Firuz marched his army to Delhi. After four years, he suffered from a paralytic stroke and was later on murdered in 1290 by a Khilji chief. His three year old son, Kayumars (1290), succeeded him. His son though was eventually overthrown, ending the Slave dynasty and instigating the Khilji Revolution.

## **KHILJI DYNASTY**

The Khilji dynasty or Khalji was a Turko-Pashtun Muslim dynasty originally from Garmsir in southern Afghanistan which ruled large parts of South Asia between 1290 and 1320. It was founded by Jalal ud din Firuz Khilji and became the second dynasty to rule the Delhi Sultanate of India. Under Ala-ud-din Khilji, the Khiljis became known for successfully defending against the repeatedly Mongol invasions of India.

**Origin:** The Khilji rulers trace their roots to Central Asia and were of Turkic origin. They settled in what is now Qalat, Afghanistan before proceeding to Delhi in India. The name "Khilji" refers to an Afghan village or town known as Qalat-e Khilji (Fort of Khilji). They were treated by others as ethnic Afghans due to their adoption of some Afghan habits and customs. As a result of this, the dynasty is referred to as a Turko-Afghan. The three sultans of the Khalji dynasty were noted by historians for their faithlessness and ferocity.

Ikhtiar Uddin Muhammad bin Bakhtiar Khilji was a servant of Qutb-ud-din Aibak, who was an ex-slave of the Ghurids with a Turkic background. Mohammad Khilji was an Indo-Ghurid Shah (king) and founder of the Delhi Sultanate, which conquered Bihar and Bengal in the late 12th century. From this time, the Khiljis became servants and vassals of the Mamluk dynasty of Delhi. From 1266 until his death in 1290, the Sultan of Delhi was called Ghiyas ud din Balban, another servant of Qutab-ud-din Aybak. Balban's immediate successors, however, were unable to manage either the administration or the factional conflicts between the old Turkic nobility and the new forces led by the Khaljis. After a struggle between the two factions, Jalal ud din Firuz Khilji was installed as sultan by a noble faction of Turkic, Persian, Arabic and Indian-Muslim aristocrats at the collapse of the last Mamluk sultan, Kay-Qubadh. Their rise to power was aided by outsiders (some of them Indian-born Muslims) who might enhance their positions if the hold of the followers of Balban and the "Forty" (the members of the royal Loya Jirga) were broken. Jalal-ud-din was old, and for a time he was so unpopular that he dared not enter the capital because his tribe was thought to be close to the nomadic Afghans. During his short reign (1290–96), some of Balban's officers revolted due to this assumption of power; Jalal-ud-din suppressed them, led an unsuccessful expedition against Ranthambhor and defeated a Mongol force on the banks of the Sind River in central India.

Alauddin Khilji, his nephew and son-in-law, was ordered by his father to lead an

expedition of between 4,000 and 7,000 men into the Hindu Deccan (where many rulers had refused to submit) and capture Ellichpur and its treasure. Upon his return in 1296 (having gained status and power) he killed his uncle.

Alauddin reigned for 20 years and is considered the greatest member of the dynasty. He captured Ranthambhor (1301) and Chittorgarh (1303), conquered Māndu (1305) and captured the wealthy Hindu state of Devagiri, also repelling two Mongol raids. Alauddin's lieutenant, Malik Kafur (a Muslim Indian), was sent on an expedition to the south in 1308 which led to the capture of Warangal, the overthrow of the Hoysala Empire south of the Krishna River and the occupation of Madura in the south. Malik Kafur returned to Delhi in 1311. The empire fell into political decadence, and the sultan died in early 1316; Malik Kafur's attempted usurpation ended in his death. The last Khalji (Qutb ud din Mubarak Shah) was murdered in 1320 by a former Indian slave who had risen to become his chief minister and friend, Khusraw Khan. Power was then assumed by Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq, the first ruler of the Turkic Tughluq dynasty. A remnant of the ruling house of the Khaljis ruled in Malwa from 1436 to 1530 (or 1531), until the Sultan of Gujarat purged the nobility.

To some extent, the Khilji usurpation was a move toward the recognition of a shifting balance of power attributable to the developments outside the territory of the Delhi Sultanate (in Central Asia and Iran) and to the changes which followed the establishment of Turkic rule in northern India. In large measure, the dislocation in the regions beyond the northwest assured the establishment of an independent Delhi Sultanate and its subsequent consolidation. The eastern steppe tribes' movements to the west not only ended the threat to Delhi from the rivals in Ghazni and Ghor, but also forced a number of Central Asian Muslims to migrate to northern India. This phenomenon also led to the destabilization of the core of the Turkic Mamluks. During the Mongol plunder of Central Asia and eastern Persia (now parts of modern-day Iran, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan), many more members of the political and religious elite of these regions were thrown into northern India, where they were admitted into the military and administrative cadre by the early Delhi sultans.

According to the 14th century scholar Ibn Batuta, the Khilji dynasty encouraged conversion to Islam by making it customary to have the convert presented to the sultan (who would place a robe on him and reward him with gold bracelets). During Ikhtiyar Uddin Bakhtiyar Khilji's control of Bengal, Muslim missionaries in India achieved their greatest success in the number of converts to Islam.

## **JALALUDDIN FERUZ KHILJI**

Jalaluddin Khilji (died 20 July 1296) was the first sultan of the Khilji dynasty, who reigned from 1290 to 1296. He built his capital at Kilughari, a few miles from the city of Delhi and completed the unfinished palace and gardens of Sultan Qaiqabad.) He ruled from there for six years i.e.(1290-1296)

**Early life and accession:** Jalaluddin Khilji original name is is Malik Firuz. He was appointed by Sultan Qaiqabad to the fief of Baran and the command of the army. Soon, Sultan Qaiqabad suffered from a paralytic stroke and Firuz marched towards Delhi. The nobles placed Kayumars, the three-year-old son of Qaiqabad on the throne. But the sons of Firuz dashed into the city and carried away the infant Sultan, defeating a force sent in pursuit of them. Most of the Turkic nobles now submitted to Firuz. Qaiqabad was put to death and his corpse was

thrown into the Yamuna. On 13 July 1290 Jalal-ud-Din Firuz was enthroned in the palace of Kalughari. He was made a slave from there.

**Reign:** After the accession to the throne, Jalal-ud-Din Firuz allowed Malik Chhajju, the nephew of Balban to retain his FREEDOM of Kara-Manikpur. The post of wazir was conferred on Khvaja Khatir, who had held it under Balban and Qaiqabad. Fakhr-ud-Din, the kotwal of Delhi was also allowed to continue. Firuz's eldest son received the title of Khan Khanan, his second son received the title of Arkali Khan and his third son received the title of Qadr Khan. He appointed his younger brother the ariz-i-mumalik (army minister) and conferred upon him the title of Yaghrush Khan. His two nephews, Alauddin and Almas Beg received significant responsibilities in the royal household and his relation Malik Ahmad Chap was appointed deputy master of ceremonies.

In 1292, a horde of more than 100,000 Mongols invaded India. Successes in battle and smart negotiation caused a partial retreat on the part of the Mongols. They rose again five years later when his nephew and son-in-law Ala ud din Khilji was on the throne. Ala-ud-din was also responsible for a successful raid in to Deccan as Governor of Kara under his uncle, Jalal-ud-din. Jalal-ud-din was killed by his cruel nephew Ali Gurshap when he arrived to dinner with him at kara.

## **ALA-UD-DIN KHILJI**

Juna Khan Khilji, commonly known by his title as Ala-ud-din Khilji was the second ruler of the Turko-Afghan Khilji dynasty in India. He is considered the most powerful ruler of the dynasty, reigning from 1296 to 1316.

His attack on Chittor in 1303 CE to capture the queen of Chittor, Rani Padmini, the wife of King Rawal Ratan Singh and the subsequent story have been immortalized in the epic poem Padmavat, written by Malik Muhammad Jayasi in the Awadhi language in the year 1540.

He was a strategist and military commander who commanded forces across the Indian subcontinent. **Sultan Ala-ud-din Khilji is also noted in history for being one of the few rulers in the world to have repeatedly defended his empire against Mongol invasions. He defeated large Mongol armies and then launched punitive expeditions against them in Central Asia, around modern-day Afghanistan.**

**Mongol invasions:** Alauddin Khilji successfully defended his realm from the Mongol invasion. He improved the border's fortifications and established garrisons. **He defeated the Mongol armies at the battles of Jalandhar (1298), Kili (1299), Amroha (1305) and Ravi (1306).**

"During his 20-year-long reign Ala al-Din Khalji conducted a number of campaigns that greatly expanded his authority. Threatened by the Mongol expansion from Central Asia, he successfully repelled several Mongol attacks on northwestern India between 1296 and 1308. The Mongol invasions in 1305 were also defeated, first at Amroha and then on the banks of Ravi River, allowing Ala al-Din to launch punitive expeditions into Mongol-controlled territories in Afghanistan.

## North Indian expeditions

**Gujarat:** Alauddin Khilji sent two of his great generals Ulugh Khan and Nusrat Khan, to Gujarat, which was conquered and annexed. Nusrat Khan started for Gujarat from Delhi on February 24, 1299 AD, Ulugh Khan started from Sindh and joined Nusrat Khan near Chittorgarh. Malik Kafur a slave, was bought for 1000 Dinars. He rose to position of general in the army. KING Karan fled with his daughter Devaladevi but his wife Kamala Devi was seized by Alauddin Khilji's general but on the way back to Delhi on reaching Jhalore the queen was released by Devda Rajput of Jhalore and King Karan's general. They fled from there in jungle to reach Baglan but on the way, the queen died due to serious wound caused while escaping.

**Ranathambhor:** In 1290 Jalaluddin Khilji attacked Ranthambhor but was repulsed. Hamir Dev, a descendant of Prithviraj Chauhan ruled Ranthambhor. Seventeen kilometers from Sawaimadhopur stands a fort, encompassing in its stately walls, a glorious history of the Rajputs. Ranathambhor's venerable structure, rapturous beauty and sublime expressiveness seem to be continuously vocalizing the great legends of Hamir Dev, the Indian king, who ruled in the 13th century.

Hamir Dev belonged to the Chauhan dynasty and drew his lineage from Prithviraj Chauhan who enjoys a respectable place in the Indian history. During his 12 years' reign, Hamir Dev fought 17 battles and won 13 of them. He annexed Malwa, Abu and Mandalgarh and thus extended his kingdom to the chagrin of Delhi Sultan, Jalal ud din Firuz Khilji, who had misgivings about Hamir's intentions. Jalaluddin attacked Ranathambhor and had it under siege for several years. However, he had to return to Delhi unsuccessful.

Jalaluddin was assassinated by his nephew Allaluddin Khilji who then crowned himself as the new Sultan of Delhi. Muhammad Shah was instrumental in making this coup successful which earned him a basketful of privileges. Muhammad Shah was even allowed access to the harem as a result of which he soon built up a good rapport with its inmates.

Chimna was one of Allaudin's begums, but Allaudin never gave her as much attention as other begums of the harem received from him. He had inadvertently managed to antagonize her. To make things worse Chimna Begum saw a valiant soldier in Muhammad Shah and was extremely impressed by his courage and boldness. Soon the vindictive begum and the ambitious Muhammad Shah started a conspiracy to slay Allaudin. Their objective was to see Muhammad Shah as Sultan and the begum as queen. The conspiratorial plans somehow leaked out. Allaudin was enraged as he came to know of Muhammad Shah's intentions. To escape the fury of Allaudin, Muhammad Shah had to flee from Delhi along with his brother. He sought asylum in many nearby kingdom but no one was ready to stand up to the wrath of Allaudin.

Muhammad Shah approached Hamir Dev. The brave Rajput was moved by his humble pleading and misery and agreed to him shelter. Allaudin's ire was roused when he came to know of it. He immediately attacked the fort of Ranathambhor. The armies of Allaudin and

Hamir Dev met in a battle on the banks of river Banas. The Rajputs had the initial victory. However, because of the personal feud between the Prime Minister and the Senapati (General-in-charge of the army) Hamir Dev's army got disorganized. The Senapati of the army was Gurdan Saini. The Prime Minister succeeded in getting the Senapati killed. Meanwhile, Allaudin reorganized his forces and made a renewed attack on the fort. Some unscrupulous officers of Hamir Dev, with Bhoj Dev as their leader, colluded with Allaudin and started giving him secret information about the fort. The war continued. The strong walls of the fort were strategically so situated that it was not possible to blow them down with gunpower, for the debris so created had already killed numerous soldiers of the Sultan in their futile attempt to break into the fort. At last Allaudin sent a message to Hamir Dev saying that in case he was ready to hand over Muhammad Shah to him, he would go back to Delhi. Hamir Dev was too self-respecting to make such an ignominious compromise. He sent back the messenger with the reply that when the Rajputs promised to protect someone, they even gave their lives for his safety. Muhammad Shah saw the hopelessness of the situation and counselled Hamir Dev to hand him over to Allaudin rather than fight such a long drawn-out war and suffer such an enormous loss of lives and resources. Allaudin's army was immense. He put a complete siege on the Ranathambhor fort. Bhoj Dev and his informers kept on supplying him information on the food of water situation inside the fort. The ill-fated war bended with the Sultan's legions emerging victorious. The female members of the Rajput kingdom committed jauhar and gave up lives on the pyres. Hamir Dev, along with his Rajput bravehearts decided to perform shaka that is the fight unto death.

After the victory, Allaudin entered the fort. Wounded Muhammad Shah was brought to him.

"What is your last desire?" asked Allaudin. "To kill you and place Hamir's son on the throne of Ranathambhor", replied Muhammad Shah. Then he took out his dagger and committed suicide.

Allaudin, now, turned to Bhoj Dev and his other informers. Their faces were keen with eagerness to receive the long awaited reward from the Sultan. On the contrary, Allaudin roared, "Shave of the heads of these traitors. They have not been loyal to their own king".

Within minutes, the heads of all his accomplices rolled on the ground. Allaudin's laughter reverberated against the walls of the fort. After Khilji the fort once again passed on to the Rajput rulers.

**Mewar:** Sultan Alau'd Din put to Flight; Women of Ranthambhor commit Jauhar; Rajput painting from 1825. Mewar was the most powerful kingdom of all the kingdoms of northwest India. On 28 January 1303 Alauddin Khilji started for Mewar. According to legend Alauddin heard of the unparalleled beauty of Rani Padmini, wife of Ratan Singh. He went to Chittor with an intention to siege the fort and went in by saying that he wanted to see the Rani. This of course was an act of shame for a Hindu king, but Ratan Singh gave in. He persuaded his wife to let the sultan see her. She gave her consent and allowed Alauddin see her reflection in a mirror. While all this was going on his men secretly surveyed the inside of the fort. On seeing

the beauty of the queen Alauddin was determined to get her for his harem. On his return to Delhi he got Ratan Singh in accompanying him. he used this opportunity and kidnapped him. The Songara Chauhan generals Gora & Badal decided to beat the Sultan at his own game and sent back a word that Padmini would be given to Ala-ud-din the next morning. On the following day at the crack of dawn, one hundred and fifty palanquins (covered cases in which royal ladies were carried in medieval times) left the fort and made their way towards Ala-ud-din's camps. The palanquins stopped before the tent where king Ratan Singh was being held prisoner. Seeing that the palanquins had come from Chittor; and thinking that they had brought along with them his queen, King Ratan Singh was mortified. But to his surprise from the palanquins came out, not his queen and her women servants but fully armed soldiers, who quickly freed Ratan Singh and galloped away towards Chittor on horses grabbed from Ala-ud-din's stables. Gora fought bravely during the skirmish and laid down his life while Badal was able to take the Rana safely to the fort.

On hearing that his designs had been frustrated, the Sultan was furious and ordered his army to storm Chittor. But hard as they tried the Sultan's army could not break into the fort. Then Ala-ud-din decided to lay siege to the fort. The siege was a long drawn one and gradually supplies within the fort were depleted. Finally King Ratan Singh gave orders that the Rajputs would open the gates and fight to finish with the besieging troops. On hearing of this decision, Padmini decided that with their men-folk going into the unequal struggle with the Sultan's army in which they were sure to perish, the women of Chittor had either to commit the divine suicide called as Jauhar or face dishonour at the hands of the victorious enemy.

The choice was in favour of suicide through Jauhar. A huge pyre was lit and followed by their queen, all the women of Chittor jumped into the flames and deceived Alauddin's army waiting outside. With their womenfolk dead, the men of Chittor had nothing to live for. They decided to perform Saka. Each soldier got dressed in kesariya robes and turbans. They charged out of the fort and fought on furiously with the vastly powerful array of the Sultan, till all of them perished. After this pyrrhic victory the Sultan's troops entered the fort only to be confronted with ashes and burnt bones of the women.

**Malwa:** Alauddin Khalji's conquest of Mewar, Ranathambor and Gujarat stuck fear in the mind of the remaining Indian Kingdoms of northern India. But Mahlak Dev refused to give in to Alauddin Khalji so easily. He gathered 20,000 horsemen and 90,000 infantry to confront Alauddin's army. Harnanda Koka was the general of his army. On the other hand Ain-ul-Mulk Multani was on the head of a 160,000 Muslim army. After a bloody war Harnanda Koka was killed and his forces retreated. Malwa along with Mandu, Dhara and Chanderi fell to Alauddin Khalji. Ain-ul-Mulk Multani was appointed the governor of Malwa.

**Marwar:** Alauddin Khalji invaded Marwar in 1308. Satal Dev was the king of Marwar and the owner of the famous Siwana fort. Alauddin Khalji sent Malik Kamaluddin as the general of his army. After a fierce battle the Marwari army was defeated. Satal dev was captured and was executed.

**Jalore:** Alauddin Khilji invaded Jalore next. The first expedition was a failure, Khilji's army was defeated by Kanhad Dev Songara. Alauddin Khilji then sent Malik Kamaluddin. The Hindu forces were defeated this time by Malik Kamaluddin's forces. Book "Kanhad-dev Prabhand" is related to this king and it was written by Padmnabh

### **Expeditions in southern India**

In 1306–07, Alauddin Khalji completed two campaigns. The first was against Rai Karan who after his expulsion from Gujrat, had been holding Baglana. Though His wife kamaladevi died on the way to Baglan after great escape from Sultan's general, Devala Devi was also with King Karan in Baglan. An expedition was launched to dethrone Karan and to bring Devala Devi to Delhi. It was successful but meanwhile Devala Devi was married to son of Ramchandra king of Devgiri who later on stayed hiding in Baglan after fall of Devgiri. The second expedition under his slave general Malik Kafur was against Deogir, under King Ramachandra, an ally of Rai Karan. Ramchandra was defeated, and Rai Ramachandra was restored to his dominions with the title "Rai Rayan" by Delhi. He was also given the Gujrat and one of his daughters, called Jatyapali, was married to Alauddin Khilji. This alliance was to prove to be of great value to Alauddin in his further aggrandizement in Deccan.

But, after the death of Rai Ramachandra in 1315, his sons threw off the yoke of Delhi. Malik Kafur quickly came and crushed the rebellion and assumed direct administration of the area.

**Warangal:** After conquering Devagiri Malik Kafur invaded Warangal (1309) with help of Rai Ramchandra. It was only after a fierce battle Malik Kafur was able to occupy the Warangal fort and he was able to force the ruler of Warangal to sue for peace, to surrender all their treasures, and to promise an annual tribute. King Prataprudradev of the Kakatiya dynasty signed a treaty with Delhi.

Alauddin Khilji got the famous Koh-i-Noor diamond, once the largest known diamond in the world, from Warangal. It was seized by the East India Company and became part of the British Crown Jewels when Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India in 1877.

After conquering Devagiri and Warangal, Alauddin Khilji sent Malik Kafur (1311) against king Veera Ballala of the Hoyasala dynasty ruling Dwar Samudra (Halebeedu). Veera Ballala surrendered without a fight and Kafur was able to force the ruler of Dwar Samudra to sue for peace, to surrender all their treasures, and to promise an annual tribute.

But, in the case of Mabar, even this formal agreement was not forthcoming. However, Malik Kafur returned to Delhi with untold booty, such as those from at Chidambaram, without being able to defeat the Tamil armies.

But, within a decade after the death of Alaudin Khilji several south Indian rulers like Prolaya Vema Reddy of the Reddy dynasty, Musunuri Kaapaaneedu and Hakka and Bukka of the Vijayanagara Empire liberated whole south India from the Delhi Sultanate. Additionally the Bahmani Sultanate also gained its independence in the Deccan in the 14th century.

## **Political and administrative changes**

Alauddin Khilji's administrative and political reforms were based on his conception of fear and control as the basis of good government as well as his military ambitions. The bulk of the measures were designed to centralize power in his hands and to support a large military.

### **Control over nobility**

On his accession to the throne Ala ud din khilji had to face a number of revolts by nobles including one by his own nephew, Aqat Khan. Alauddin's response was to increase his level of control over the nobility. He reduced the economic wherewithal of nobles to launch rebellions by confiscating their wealth and removing them from their bases of power. Even charitable lands administered by nobles were confiscated. Severe punishments were given for disloyalty. Even wives and children of soldiers rebelling for greater war spoils were imprisoned. An efficient spy network was set up that reached into the private households of nobles. Marriage alliances made between noble families had to be approved by the king.

### **Agrarian reforms**

The area between Lahore and Dipalpur in the Punjab and Kara (near Allahabad) were removed from the purview of nobles and brought under the direct control of the crown - khalisa. Tax was assessed at half of the output payable in cash. No additional taxes were levied on agriculture. The direct relationship between the cultivator and the state disrupted the power of local landowners that traditionally had power of collecting taxes and parcelling out land within their areas. These landowners had grown prosperous based on their ability to force their share of taxes onto smaller landholders. Under Alauddin, these landowners were forced to pay their own taxes and prevented from passing on that cost to others. The cut landowners made from collecting tax revenue for the state was also abolished. While the cultivators were free from the demands of the landowners, the high taxes imposed by the state meant they had "barely enough for carrying on his cultivation and his food requirements."

To enforce the new system, a strong and efficient revenue administration system was set up. A large number of accountants, collectors, and agents were hired to administer the system. These officials were well-paid but were subject to severe punishment if found to be taking bribes. Account books were audited and even small discrepancies were punished. The effect was both large landowners and small-scale cultivators were fearful of missing out on paying their assessed taxes.

### **Market reforms and price control**

Ala ud din Khilji's military ambitions required a standing and strong army, especially after the Mongol siege of Delhi. Maintaining a large army at regular salaries, however, would be a severe drain on the treasury. A system of price controls reduced the salary amount that needed to be paid. Three separate markets were set up in Delhi. The first one for food grains, the second for cloth and items such as ghee, oil and sugar. The third market was horses, cattle, and slaves. Regulations were laid out for the operations of these markets. He took various steps to control

the prices. He exercised supervisions over the market. He fixed the prices of all the commodities from top to bottom. Market officers called shahna were appointed to keep a check on the prices. The defaulters were heavily punished. Land revenue was fixed and the grain was stored in government granaries. These market regulations and stability of prices were the wonders of his age. The soldiers and the civil population were greatly benefitted from these measures due to the low prices of the essential goods.

### **Death**

Alauddin died in January 1316, of oedema. It is believed that his lieutenant Malik Naib hastened his death. His tomb and madarsa dedicated to him, exists at the back of Qutb complex, Mehrauli, in Delhi.

## **QUTB-UD-DIN MUBARAK SHAH KHILJI**

Qutb-ud-din Mubarak Shah Khilji (died 1320) was the third and last ruler of the Khilji dynasty in Sultanate of Delhi, India. Qutb-ud-din Khilji was the son and successor of Alauddin Khilji. Qutb-ud-din, at the age of 18, was originally appointed regent to his younger six-year old brother, the king. Within two months, Qutb-ud-din blinded his brother and ascended the throne. He began his rule by releasing thousands of prisoners and abolishing all taxes and penalties imposed by his father. Qutb-ud-din was the weakest ruler of the dynasty.

Qutb-ud-din was murdered by Khusro Khan in 1320, which ended the Khilji dynasty. Khusro Khan was a former Hindu slave of the Bawariya Hindu caste in Gujarat.

## **KHUSRO KHAN**

Khusro Khan was a medieval Indian military leader, and ruler of Delhi as Sultan Nasir-ud-din for a short period of time. He was a native of the Bawariya region of Saurashtra in Gujarat, India.

### **Capture and enslavement**

In 1297, Alauddin Khilji sent an army under the command of Ulugh Khan and Nusrat Khan to plunder Gujarat. They first captured Patan by defeating the last Hindu ruler Karan Vaghela, then reached the Somanath temple in Saurashtra. They found no resistance and later fought with Hamirji Gohil of the Lathi State and his friend Vegado Bhil, who were both killed in a battle near the Somnath temple. Khusro Khan, whose original name is not known, was fighting alongside Vegada Bhil and Hamirji Gohil. Before his death at Somanath, Vegado Bhil ordered Khusro Khan to escape and to take revenge with Alauddin Khilji. Khusro Khan was captured, converted to Islam and enslaved. Known as 'Hasan,' he was subsequently given the title Khusro Khan by Mubarak. As a favorite of Mubarak, he led armies to the south. The historian Farishtah writes about Mubarak's homosexual relations with Khusro Khan and also that Khusro Khan was a shemale.

**Capturing the throne:** It is said that Mokhadaji Gohil of Piram also met Khusro Khan. At that time, Khusro Khan also advised Mokhadaji Gohil to fight against Delhi Sultanate. Khusro Khan

got Allauddin Khilji killed by his friend Jahiriya. In 1320 Khusro Khan managed to kill Alauddin Khilji's son, Qutb ud din Mubarak Shah, ending the Khilji dynasty. He captured the throne of Delhi and held it four years, after which he was defeated and killed by Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq, who founded the Tughlaq dynasty in 1320 in Delhi.

He was against laws which favoured tax system based on religion. It is said that he was against women being treated as war booty. He took strong steps to prevent harems and sex slaves. Perhaps his own sufferings made him think this way but this caused nobles to go against him.

**Rule:** After capturing the throne by assassinating the decadent Qutb ud din Mubarak Shah, He collected all of the Qurans placed them on chairs of his court and ordered his Muslim ministers to sit on the Qurans. Khusro Khan also often urinated on his cabinet of Muslim ministers. There was no end to the decadence and disrespect of this new king so when the ministers had enough they requested Emir Ghazi Malik of Dipalpur to invade Delhi. Ghazi Malik captured Delhi and killed Khusro Khan.

**Religion:** Khusro Khan was a non-Rajput Hindu from Gujrat. He was forced to convert to Islam from Hinduism at the time of his capture. He became the first Hindu to sit on the throne of Delhi. It is clear from the writing of Muslim chroniclers that Khusrau Khan had converted back to Hinduism. That the occasion of Sultan Nasir-ud-din's accession to the throne of Delhi was a moment of joy for the despairing Hindus in the North is given by the following passage:

“In those dreadful days the infidel rites of the Hindus were highly exalted, the dignity and the importance of the Parwáris were increased, and through all the territory of Islám the Hindus rejoiced greatly, boasting that Dehlí had once more come under Hindu rule, and that the Musulmán's had been driven away and dispersed”. (Baranī)

## **TUGHLAQ DYNASTY**

The Tughlaq dynasty, often also called "Tughluq", was a Muslim dynasty of Turkic origin which established a Delhi sultanate in medieval India. Its reign started in 1321 in Delhi when Ghazi Malik assumed the throne under the title of Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq.

**History:** The empire grew under his son and successor Muhammad bin Tughluq, but the latter became notorious for ill-advised policy experiments such as shifting the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad and introducing copper coins without effective regulation against forgery. Tughluqi has as a result become synonym for brilliant if stubborn eccentricity in the Urdu language.

After Muhammad bin Tughluq died, a collateral relative, Mahmud Ibn Muhammad, ruled for less than a month, until a cousin Feroz Shah Tughlaq killed him and assumed the throne. His rule was somewhat weak militarily, mainly because of inept army. After Feroz died in 1388, the Tughlaq dynasty's power continued to fade, and no more able leaders came to the throne; the dynasty was essentially over within 10 years.

The lowest point for the dynasty however came in 1398, when Turco-Mongol invader, Timur

(Tamerlane) defeated four armies of the Sultanate on December 15, 1398. Subsequently the Sultan Mahmud Khan fled before Tamerlane entered Delhi on December 18. For eight days Delhi was plundered, its population massacred and over 100,000 war prisoners were killed as well

## **GHIYAS UD-DIN TUGHLUQ**

Ghiyas ud-Din Tughluq, also known as Ghazi Malik; died in February, 1325 was the founder and first ruler of the Muslim Tughluq dynasty (of Turkic origin) in India, who reigned over the Sultanate of Delhi (Sep, 08, 1320 – Feb, 1325). He has been the founder of the third city of Delhi called Tughluqabad.

### **Origin of The Tughlaqs**

Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq, born of a Turk father and Hindu Jat mother, was in origin a poor Qarauna who took service with a merchant of Sind. It is a generally held notion among the scholars that the name 'Tughlaq' belonged to a tribe or clan from which came the founder of the Tughlaq dynasty, Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq. but others still think that 'Tughlaq' is the personal name of the sultan which his successors also bear for example Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq or Firoz Shah Tughlaq. Ghazi Malik or Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq came from an obscure tribe 'Qaraunah' the origin and development of which is a matter of conjecture among the historians. Traveler Ibn Batuta discards that fact that 'Qaraunah' was a Mongol or a Turkish tribe, although he generally accepts that the Tughlaqs originally belonged to that tribe. Another traveler of international repute Marco Polo ascribes the 'Qaraunah' tribe to a mixed breed which developed exclusively in India. while some other scholars hold the theory that he actually belonged to the Sassanian kings of Iran which off course a less unanimous view.. in fact through the course of Sultanate period what baffles the historians is the origins and backgrounds of the sultans of the successive dynasties which are shrouded in mystery and obscurity due to paucity of evidence.

Another engaging debate among the historians is whether the first Tughlaq Ghazi Malik was born to a Jat mother or not. It is generally assumed that sultan Ghazi Malik was born to Malik Tughlaq who was a Turkish Slave and a Jat mother. Although contemporary chronicler Firishta finds no sufficient evidence which might throw some light on the parentage of the first tughlaq, Somehow a general theory evolved of tracing his parentage to Malik Tughlaq and a Jat mother. which subsequently has also gained much support and popularity. But another eminent chronicler Afif supports this theory heavily saying that the sultan's son Muhammad bin Tughlaq gave his brother in marriage to the daughter of a Jat nobleman who however conforms to this marriage by threats. By gleaning and thoroughly scrutinizing all the hypotheses the historian R.C Majumdar rightly concludes that Ghazi Malik was born to a Turkish slave and a Jat mother.

However, his policy was harsh against the fellow Mongols. He had killed envoys of the Ilkhan Oljeitu and punished Mongol prisoners harshly. He had fought various campaigns against the

Mongols defeating them in 1305 at the Battle of Amroha. Towards the end of his reign Alauddin Khilji had prepared an expedition of 10,000 men under Ghazi Malik to go to Debalpur to fight against the Chagatai Khanate Mongols. Ghazi Malik was thus enabled to go and secure Multan, Uch and Sindh for himself, especially as Alauddin Khilji's sons proved incapable and caused confusion in the affairs of the kingdom, which ultimately took away the kingdom from the possession of the house of Khilji. Alauddin Khilji's son Qutb ud din Mubarak Shah, allegedly, a mad man, was removed from the throne of Delhi by Khusro Khan. The nobles of the state then put Khusro Khan on the throne. The latter became unpopular with the Muslim nobility due to perceived partiality towards Hindus. Ghazi Malik's son Fakhr Malik left Delhi secretly and joined his father, informing him of what was happening at Delhi. Then, father and son, collected the forces of Sindh and Multan and hastened to Delhi to overthrow Khusro Khan. Arriving near Delhi with 3,000 veteran soldiers, they engaged in battle against the army of Khusro Khan, and defeated them. Then making their way into Delhi they again defeated Khusro Khan in battle and he fled away. About midnight the ministers and the headmen of the place came to Ghazi Malik and his son in their camp and gave up the keys of the fort. Early in the morning Ghazi Malik entered the city with all the pomp and glory of a King. Then he went into mourning for 3 days for the death of Alauddin Khilji and his son Qutb ud din Mubarak Shah. After these ceremonies were over he issued a proclamation with the view of finding out any member of the family of those princes in order that he might put him on the throne of Delhi. But as no such person could be found on search, the nobles, the troops, the learned men, the Syeds and other subjects united in selecting Ghazi Malik for the vacant post, as it was he who had removed all the cause of quarrel and disturbance in the country. Thus in 1320 (720 A.H.) Ghazi Malik was crowned as the Sultan of Delhi with the title of Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq and his son Fakhr Malik was given the title of Muhammad Shah Tughluq.

When, soon after this, Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq proceeded from Multan to Delhi, the tribe of Soomro revolted and took possession of Thatta. Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq appointed Tajuddin Malik as governor of Multan and Khwajah Khatir as governor of Bhakkar and he left 'Malik Ali Sher in charge of Sehwan. In 1323 he appointed his son Muhammad Shah his heir and successor and took a written promise or agreement to the arrangement from the ministers and nobles of the state. In 1324-1325 (720 A.H.) he died of heat apoplexy.

He had established himself as a great ruler. He removed corrupt officials from his administration. He reformed the judiciary and all existing police departments. He also reduced the land revenue to 1/10 of the produce. He was an efficient administrator and a capable military commander. He introduced a number of reforms for his welfare of his subjects and suppressed revolts in distant provinces. He restored peace and stability in the Delhi Sultanate. Ghiyath al-Din was succeeded by his son Muhammad bin Tughluq.

**Death of Ghazi Malik:** In A.D 1324 he turned his attention towards Bengal where an independent principality ruled and the sultan aimed at asserting his supremacy over the region and therefore set out in expedition with a large army towards Bengal, having left in

charge of the government of Delhi his son Jauna Khan (who later ascended to the throne as Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq). The result of this expedition which started in on the month of January, 1324, was a general victory. On his way back to Delhi, the sultan also subjugated king of Tirhut region (N. Bihar). On his return journey he had some alarm of his son's suspicious conducts and about a general disquiet in Delhi. Ibn Batuta gives a lively narration of the events which followed.....however, while returning and was near Delhi, he sent an order to build a palace in Afghanpur, before he would reach Delhi. According to Batuta, a wooden palace was constructed under the supervision of sultan's wazir, Ahmad bin Aiyaz and so contrived that when an elephant would pass through that wooden structure, the whole project would tumble down. so it happened, when sultan was requested by Jauna Khan to have the elephant ride past him and he granted,...elephants came from a certain direction and the total construction collapsed upon him and his other son Mahmud. According to Batuta, he heard a huge uproar as he was performing the evening prayer, he left the prayer, came and saw the blunder with the whole structure having tumbled down on sultan, his son and 5-6 of his followers. His son was ordering for some pickaxes and shovels for the quick rescue which was deliberately delayed by the signal of Jauna Khan, who ordered the rescuing process only after the sunset. Whether he was taken out dead or alive then murdered is a matter of debate. His body was carried in the course of night to the tomb beside the city of Tughlaqabad which he had made.

## MUHAMMAD BIN TUGHLAQ

Muhammad bin Tughlaq (also Prince Fakhr Malik, Jauna Khan; died 20 March 1351) was the Turkic Sultan of Delhi from 1325 to 1351. He was the eldest son of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq. He was born in Kotla Tolay Khan in Multan. His wife was the daughter of the raja of Dipalpur. Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq sent the young Muhammad to the Deccan to campaign against king Prataparudra of the Kakatiya dynasty whose capital was at Warangal. Muhammad succeeded to the Delhi throne upon his father's death in 1325. From his accession to the throne in 1325 until his death in 1351, Muhammad contended with 22 rebellions, pursuing his policies consistently and ruthlessly.

As his reign began, Muhammad attempted, without much success, to enlist the services of the 'ulamā', the Muslim divines, and the Ṣūfīs, the ascetic mystics. Failing to win the 'ulamā' over, he tried to curtail their powers, as some of his predecessors had, by placing them on an equal footing with other citizens. The Sultan wanted to use the Ṣūfīs' prestigious position to stabilize his authority as ruler. Yet they had always refused any association with government and would not accept any grants or offices except under duress. Muhammad tried every measure, conciliatory or coercive, to yoke them to his political wagon. Although he humiliated them, he could not break their opposition and succeeded only in dispersing them from the towns of northern India. The transfer of the capital in 1327 to Deogir (now Daulatabad) was intended to consolidate the conquests in southern India by large-scale—in some cases forced—migration of the people of Delhi to Deogir. As an administrative measure it failed, but it had far-reaching cultural effects. The spread of the Urdu language in the Deccan may be traced to this extensive influx of Muslims.

Between 1328 and 1329 the Sultan increased the land tax in the Doab—the land between

the Ganges (Ganga) and Yamuna rivers—but the taxpayers resisted it, especially because a severe drought coincided. Muhammad's last expedition, against the rebel Ṭaghī, ended with his death at Sonda in Sindh in 1351.

### **Collapse of the empire**

Tughluq died in 1351 on his way to Thatta, Sindh in order to intervene a war between members of the Soomro tribe. He had lived to see his empire fall apart. During his reign new kingdoms broke away in south India and the Deccan. Several south Indian rulers like Prolaya Vema Reddy of the Reddy dynasty, Musunuri Kaapaaneedu and Hakka and Bukka of the Vijayanagara Empire liberated whole south India from the Delhi Sultanate and the Bahmani kingdom was founded by Hasan Gangu. The unpopularity and failures of this person also led to the collapse of the empire.

### **Religious tolerance**

Muhammad bin Tughluq was relatively liberal and permitted Hindus and Jains to settle in Delhi. The policy was continued by his cousin Firuz Shah Tughluq, who patronized the Jain monk Mahendra Sūri, who composed the Yantra-rāja, the first Sanskrit text on the astrolabe.

## **SULTAN FEROZE SHAH TUGHLUQ**

Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq (1309 – September 20, 1388) was a Turkic Muslim ruler of the Tughlaq Dynasty, who reigned over the Sultanate of Delhi from 1351 to 1388. He was the son of a Hindu princess of Dipalpur. His father's name was Rajab (the younger brother of Ghazi Malik) who had the title Sipahsalar. Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq succeeded his cousin Muhammad bin Tughluq following the latter's death from a fatal illness, but due to widespread unrest Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq's realm was much smaller than Muhammad's. Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq was forced by rebellions to concede virtual independence to Bengal and other provinces.

**Rule:** Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq was the Sultan of Delhi from 1351 to 1388. At his succession after the death of Muhammad Tughlaq, he faced many rebellions, including Bengal, Gujarat and Warangal. Nonetheless he worked to improve the infrastructure of the empire building canals, rest-houses and hospitals, creating and refurbishing reservoirs and digging wells. He founded several cities, including Jaunpur, Firozpur and Hissar-Firoza. In the mid 1350s he developed the city near Delhi, calling it Firozabad. Most of that city was destroyed as subsequent rulers dismantled its buildings and reused the spolia as building materials, and the rest was subsumed as New Delhi grew.

**Moderation:** Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq probably learnt many lessons from his cousin Muhammad's rule. He decided not to reconquer areas that had broken away. He decided to keep nobles and the Ulema happy so that they would allow him to rule his kingdom peacefully. In fact, almost all the rebellions during his rule were inherited from Muhammad bin Tughluq. We come to know about him from a 32-page brochure he wrote.[citation needed] Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq allowed a noble's son to succeed to his father's position and jagir after his death. The same was done in the army, where an old soldier could send his son, son-in-law or even his slave in his place. He increased the salary of the nobles. He stopped all kinds of harsh punishments such as cutting off hands. Firoz also lowered the land taxes that Muhammad had raised. Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq's reign has been described as the greatest age of corruption in medieval India. It can be imagined from the fact that Sultan Feroze Shah

Tughluq once gave a golden tanka to a distraught soldier so that he could bribe the clerk to pass his sub standard horse. The case of **Imadulmulk Bashir**, the minister of war who began his career as an inherited slave of Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq, in course of his service is said to have **accumulated wealth to the tune of thirteen crores, when the state's yearly income was six crores and seventy-five lakh tankas.**

**Infrastructure and education:** **Two storeys of Qutb Minar, that were added by Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq, after lightning damaged previous one, in 1368 AD. Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq instituted economic policies to increase material welfare of his people. Many rest houses (sarai), gardens and tombs were built. A number of Madrasas were opened to encourage literacy. He set up hospitals for the free treatment of the poor and encouraged physicians in the development of Unani medicine. He provided money for the marriage of girls belonging to poor families. He commissioned many public buildings in Delhi. He built over 300 villages and dug 5 major canals for irrigation bringing more land under cultivation for growing grain and fruit. For day to day administration, Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq heavily depended on Malik Maqbul, previously commander of Warangal fort, who was captured and converted to Islam. When Feroz Shah was away on a Campaign to Sind and Gujarat for six months and no news was available about his whereabouts Maqbul ably protected Delhi. He was the most highly favoured among the significant number of the nobles in Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq's court and retained the trust of the sultan. Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq used to call Maqbul as 'brother'. The sultan even remarked that Khan-i-Jahan (Malik Maqbul) was the real ruler of Delhi. he written his autobiography by name 'futuhat-e-firozshahi'.**

Hindu religious works were translated from Sanskrit to Persian. He had a large personal library of manuscripts in Persian, Arabic and other languages. He brought 2 Ashokan Pillars from Topara in Ambala district, and Meerut, carefully wrapped in silk, to Delhi. He re-erected one of them in his palace at Feroz Shah Kotla.

He had about 70,000 slaves, who had been brought from all over the country, trained in various arts and crafts. They however turned out to be undependable.[citation needed] Transfer of capital was the highlight of his reign. When the Qutb Minar struck by lightning in 1368 AD, knocking off its top storey, he replaced them with the existing two floors, faced with red sandstone and white marble. One of his hunting lodges, Shikargah, also known as Kushak Mahal, is situated within the Teen Murti Bhavan complex, Delhi. The nearby Kushak Road is named after it, as is the Tughlaq Road further on.

**Establishment of Islamic Law:** He won over the Ulemas by giving them grants of revenue, which gave him political power, but also ensured their participation in politics. Under his rule, Hindu Brahmins were not exempted from paying mandatory tax Jizya levied on Hindus on the ground that it was not mentioned in Sharia.

**Legacy:** Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq's death led to a war of succession coupled with nobles rebelling to set up independent states. His lenient attitude had strengthened the nobles, thus weakening the Sultan's position. His successor Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughluq II could not control the slaves or the nobles. The army had become weak. Slowly the empire shrank in size. Ten years after his death, Timur's invasion devastated Delhi.

## **SULTAN ABU BAKR SHAH**

Sultan Abu Bakr Shah (reigned 1389–1390), was a Muslim Turkic ruler of the Tughlaq dynasty. He was the son of Zafar Khan and the grandson of Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq.

After Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughluq II (who had succeeded Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq) was murdered, Abu Bakr became ruler of the Tughlaq empire. However, his uncle, Muhammad Shah ibn Firuz Shah Tughluq, also desired to be ruler, and struggled against Abu Bakr over the control of the throne. Abu Bakr was defeated in August 1390, and Muhammad Shah ibn Firuz Shah Tughluq succeeded him as king, reigning from 1390 to 1394. After his defeat, Abu Bakr was imprisoned in the fort of Meerut and died soon after.

### **NASIR UD DIN MUHAMMAD SHAH III**

Muhammad Shah was son of Sultan Feroze Shah Tughluq and was ruler of the Muslim Tughlaq dynasty. When Sultan Abu Bakr Shah Tughluq became ruler of the Tughlaq Empire, Muhammad Shah as his uncle was opposed to him, and struggled against Abu Bakr over the control of the throne. Eventually Abu Bakr was defeated, and Muhammad Shah succeeded him as king, reigning from 1390 to 1394.

### **NASIRUDDIN MAHMUD SHAH (SULTAN OF BENGAL)**

Nasiruddin Mahmud Shah (reigned: 1435–1459) was a Sultan of Bengal. He was a descendant of Sultan Shamsuddin Ilyas Shah of Bengal. Nasiruddin took the title of Nasiruddin Abul Muzaffar Mahmud Shah when he ascended the power in 1435 AD. It was after twenty years of gap since his dynasty lost the power in the first phase.

#### **History**

During his reign, the Sharqi sultans of Jaunpur were involved in a deadly conflict with the Lodhi sultans of Delhi. This kept Nasiruddin Mahmud's kingdom in peace. He devoted his time to the task of reconstruction and development. He was also able to recover Bengal's military strength. According to historians Nizamuddin Ahmad and Firishtah, Nasiruddin Mahmud Shah was an ideal sultan. Another historian Ghulam Husain Salim says that by his good administration the wounds of oppression inflicted by the previous Sultan Shamsuddin Ahmad Shah were healed. Nasiruddin died in 1459 AD after a reign of twenty four years.

#### **Ruling area**

During his reign, Khan Jahan Ali conquered Khulna and Jessore. According to a numismatic evidence, Nasiruddin Mahmud ruled over a vast kingdom bounded by the districts of Bhagalpur to the west, Mymensingh and Sylhet to the east, Gaur and Pandua to the north and Hughli to the south.

#### **Spreading Islam**

With the help of Khan Jahan Ali, Nasiruddin Mahmud made progress on Muslim settlements in different parts of Bengal. They constructed mosques, excavated tanks and adopted similar[clarification needed] other public architectures. Nasiruddin also built a large number of khanqas, bridges and tombs. The significant mosques of his reign were the following :

Sixty Dome Mosque erected by Khan Jahan at Bagerhat.

- The two mosques built by Sarfaraz Khan at Jangipur in the district of Murshidabad in 1443 AD.
- The mosque built by Hilali at Gaur in 1455.
- The mosque built at Dhaka by a woman named Bakht Binat Bibi in 1455 known as

Binat Bibi Mosque.

➤ The mosque built by Khurshid Khan at Bhagalpur in 1446 AD.

The tomb of Khan Jahan Ali at Bagerhat and the tomb of an Allama at Hazrat Pandua were erected during his time. He himself laid the foundations of the citadel and palace at Gaur. Among them, a five-arched stone-bridge, part of the massive walls of the fort and the Kotwali Darwaza are still extant.

**Rukunuddin Barbak Shah** (reigned: 1459–1474) was the son and successor of Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud Shah. Barbak Shah was appointed the governor of the Satgaon region during the reign of his father. He ascended to the throne in 1459 after the death of Mahmud Shah.

Barbak Shah was a patron of both Muslim and Hindu scholars. During his time Jainuddin wrote his *Rasul Vijaya* and Ibrahim Qawam Faruqi composed a Persian lexicon *Farhang-i-Ibrahim* (known as *Sharafnamah*). Raimukuta Brhaspati Mishra, Maladhar Basu, Krttivas and Kuladhar were the most noted Hindu scholars that time. Rukunuddin Barbak Shah died in 1474 after ruling Bengal for 15 years.

## SAYYID DYNASTY

The Sayyid dynasty was the fourth dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate from 1414 to 1451. They succeeded the Tughlaq dynasty and ruled that sultanate until they were displaced by the Lodi dynasty.

This family claimed to be Sayyids, or descendants of Muhammad. The central authority of the Delhi Sultanate had been fatally weakened by the successive invasion of Timur and his sack of Delhi in 1398. After a period of chaos, when no central authority prevailed, the Sayyids gained power at Delhi. Their 37-year period of dominance witnessed the rule of four different members of the dynasty.

The dynasty was established by Khizr Khan, deputed by Timur to be the governor of Multan (Punjab). Khizr Khan took Delhi from Daulat Khan Lodi on May 28, 1414 and founded the Sayyid dynasty. But he did not take up the title of sultan and nominally, continued to be a *Rayat-i-Ala* (vassal) of the Timurids, initially of Timur and after his death, his successor Shah Rukh, grandson of Timur. Khizer Khan was succeeded by his son Mubarrak Khan after his death on May 20, 1421, who styled himself as *Muizz-ud-Din Mubarak Shah* in his coins. A detailed account of his reign is available in the *Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shahi* written by Yahya-bin-Ahmad Sirhindi. After the death of Mubarak Khan, his nephew Muhammad Khan ascended the throne and styled himself as *Sultan Muhammad Shah*. Just before his death, he called his son *Ala-ud-Din* from Badaun and nominated him as his successor.

The last ruler of this dynasty, *Ala-ud-Din Alam Shah* voluntarily abdicated the throne of the Delhi sultanate in favour of *Bahlul Khan Lodi* on April 19, 1451 and left for Badaun. He continued to live there till his death in 1478.

## KHIZR KHAN

**Khizr Khan ibn Malik Sulaiman** (reigned 1414–21) was the founder of the Sayyid dynasty, the ruling dynasty of the Delhi sultanate, in northern India soon after the invasion of Timur and the fall of the Tughlaq dynasty. He was known to be an able administrator. He did not take up any royal title from fear of Amir Timur and contended himself with the titles of *Rayat-i-Ala* (*Sublime*

Banners) and Masnad-i-Aali or (Most High Post). During his reign, coins were struck in the name of Amir Timur and after his death in the name of his successor Shah Rukh. After his death on 20 May 1421, he was succeeded by his son Mubarak Khan, who took the title of Muizz-ud-Din Mubarak Shah.

### **Ancestry and early life**

A contemporary writer Yahya Sirhindi mentioned in his Takhrikh-i-Mubarak Shahi that Khizr Khan was a descendant of the Prophet of Islam, but his conclusion was based only on a testimony of the saint Jalal-ud-Din Bukhari. Malik Mardan Daulat, the Governor of Multan adopted Khizr Khan's father Malik Sulaiman as his son. After the death of Malik Shaikh, son of Malik Mardan, he was succeeded by Malik Sulaiman as the governor of Multan. After the death of Malik Sulaiman the governorship of Multan was conferred on Khizr Khan by Firuz Shah Tughlaq. But in 1395 he was expelled from Multan by Sarang Khan, brother of Mallu Iqbal Khan. He fled to Mewat and later joined Timur. It is believed that before departure, Timur appointed Khizr Khan his viceroy at Delhi but he could only establish his control over Multan, Dipalpur and parts of Sindh. Soon he started his campaign and defeated Mallu Iqbal Khan. After defeating Daulat Khan Lodi, he entered Delhi victoriously on 6 June 1414.

### **Reign**

After his accession to the throne, Khizr Khan appointed Malik-us-Sharq Malik Tuhfa as his wazir and he was given the title of Taj-ul-Mulk and he remained in office till 1421. The fief of Saharanpur was given to Sayyid Salim. Abdur Rahman received the fiefs of Multan and Fatehpur. In 1414, an army led by Taj-ul-Mulk was sent to suppress the rebellion of Har Singh, the Raja of Katehar. Raja fled to the forests but finally he was compelled to surrender and agree to pay tributes in future. In July, 1416 an army led by Taj-ul-Mulk was sent to Bayana and Gwalior. It plundered the peasants in the name of realizing the amount equivalent to the tributes to be paid. In 1417, Khizr Khan obtained permission from Shah Rukh to have his own name also suffixed to that of Shah Rukh. In 1418, Har Singh revolted again but he was defeated completely by Taj-ul-Mulk.

## **LODHI DYNASTY**

The Lodhi dynasty was an Pashtun dynasty that ruled northern India, including modern day Pakistan, from 1451 to 1526. It was founded by Bahlul Khan Lodi when he replaced the Sayyid dynasty and ended after Ibrahim Lodi was defeated by Babur from Kabulistan in the 1526 Battle of Panipat. It was during the period of the Lodi's that the first Portuguese Armada under Vasco da Gama landed in India.

### **Bahlul Lodi**

Bahlul Khan Lodi (r.1451–89) was the nephew and son-in-law of Islam Khan (Malik Sultan Shah Lodi), the governor of Sirhind in (Punjab), India and succeeded him as the governor of Sirhind during the reign of Sayyid dynasty ruler Muhammad Shah (Muhammad-bin-Farid). Muhammad Shah raised him to the status of an Emir. After the last Sayyid ruler of Delhi, Ala-ud-Din Alam Shah voluntarily abdicated in favour of him, Bahlul Khan Lodi ascended the throne of the Delhi sultanate on April 19, 1451. Bahlul spent most of his time in fighting against the Sharqi dynasty and ultimately annexed it. He placed his eldest surviving son Barbak on the throne of Jaunpur in 1486.

### **Sikandar Lodi**

Sikandar Lodi (r.1489–1517) (born Nizam Khan), the second son of Bahlul, succeeded him after his death on July 17, 1489 and took up the title Sikandar Shah. He was nominated by his father to succeed him and was crowned sultan on July 15, 1489. He refounded Agra in 1504 and constructed mosques. He abolished corn duties and patronized trade and commerce. He was a poet of repute. He composed under the pen-name of Gulruk. He was also patron of learning and ordered Sanskrit work in medicine to be translated into Persian.

### **Ibrahim Lodi**

Sultan Ibrahim Khan Lodi (1489–1526), the youngest son of Sikandar, was the last Lodi Sultan of Delhi. Sultan Ibrahim (r.1517–26) faced numerous rebellions and kept out the opposition for almost a decade. He was engaged in warfare with the Afghans and the Mughals for most of his reign and died trying to keep the Lodi Dynasty from annihilation. Sultan Ibrahim was defeated in 1526 at the Battle of Panipat. This marked the end of the Lodi Dynasty and the rise of the Mughal Empire in India led by Babur (r. 1526–1530).

### **Fall of the empire**

By the time Ibrahim ascended the throne, the political structure in the Lodi Dynasty had dissolved due to abandoned trade routes and the depleted treasury. The Deccan was a coastal trade route, but in the late fifteenth century the supply lines had collapsed.[8] The decline and eventual failure of this specific trade route resulted in cutting off supplies from the coast to the interior, where the Lodi empire resided. The Lodi Dynasty was not able to protect itself if warfare were to break out on the trade route roads; therefore, they didn't use those trade routes, thus their trade declined and so did their treasury leaving them vulnerable to internal political problems.

### **Afghan factionalism**

Another problem Ibrahim Lodhi had when he ascended the throne in 1517 were the Afghan nobles. Some nobles backed Ibrahim's older brother, Jalaluddin, to take up arms against his brother in the area in the east at Jaunpur. Ibrahim gathered military support and defeated his brother by the end of the year. After this incident, he arrested Afghan nobles who opposed him. He then proceeded by appointing new administrators, who were his own men. Other Afghan nobles supporter the governor of Bihar, Dariya Khan against Sultan Ibrahim.

Another factor that caused uprisings against Ibrahim Lodi, was his lack of an apparent successor. His own uncle, Alam Khan, betrayed Ibrahim by supporting the Mughal invader Babur.

Babur claimed to be the true and rightful Monarch of the lands of the Lodi dynasty. He believed himself the rightful heir to the throne of Timur, and it was Timur who had originally left Khizr Khan in charge of his vassal in the Punjab, who became the leader, or Sultan, of the Delhi Sultanate, founding the Sayyid dynasty. The Sayyid dynasty, however, had been ousted by Ibrahim Lodi, a Ghilzai Afghan, and Babur wanted it returned to the Timurids. Indeed, while actively building up the troop numbers for an invasion of the Punjab he sent a request to Ibrahim; "I sent him a goshawk and asked for the countries which from old had depended on the Turk," the 'countries' referred to were the lands of the Delhi Sultanate.

Following the unsurprising reluctance of Ibrahim to accept the terms of this "offer," and though in no hurry to launch an actual invasion, Babur made several preliminary incursions and also seized Kandahar — a strategic city if he was to fight off attacks on Kabul from the

west while he was occupied in India - from the Arghunids. The siege of Kandahar, however, lasted far longer than anticipated, and it was only almost three years later that Kandahar and its Citadel (backed by enormous natural features) were taken, and that minor assaults in India recommenced. During this series of skirmishes and battles an opportunity for a more extended expedition presented itself.

### **Betrayal of the empire**

Not only was Ibrahim threatened by his uncle, Alam Khan, who joined forces with Babur, but he was also threatened by the Rajput leader, Rana Sanga of Mewar (1509–1526). Daulat Khan, the governor of Punjab also spoke with Babur about Sultan Ibrahim. Khan pledged his allegiance to Babur as well. Sultan Ibrahim Khan Lodi was easily threatened because his region was surrounded by several other dynasties and territories. The Khalji Dynasty was positioned to the northeast. The Rajputs were located to the northwest and the Sultanate of Gujarat blocked the sea to the east. To the south, lied the Khandesh and Berar regions. The Sultanate of Jaunpur located in modern day Uttar Pradesh also surrounded the Lodi Dynasty.